

*Hafa Adai!*

'More flights, hotel rooms key to boosting Japan arrivals' » **PAGE 5**

Eucon, Agape students make up Team NMI for Mathleague. » **PAGE 6**

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

## Military, civilian planes nearly collide

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**M**ilitary and civilian aircraft came disturbingly close last Wednesday afternoon in the skies between Saipan and Tinian.

According to documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* detailing the incident, two un-

identified military C-130s came directly at and passed unannounced within 300 feet of a Star Marianas twin-engine plane.

The Star Marianas pilot was flying about 1 mile offshore coming across the channel toward Tinian, south of the approach to runway 7's

instrument landing system, or ILS, from Saipan.

The pilot was flying passengers and was 1,500 feet at standard altitude and routing flown by Star Marianas, according to the document. The plane was still within the Saipan tower's airspace, or Delta airspace.

"... I suddenly spotted one C-130 coming directly at me

» **Military C-130s reportedly made unannounced climb to commercial airspace**

See **PLANES** on **Page 4**

## Cape Air cancellations continue

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Cape Air flight cancellations have continued into Monday from last weekend, after flights were cancelled last Friday, reportedly due to a continuing technical issue with their aircraft.

Yesterday, United Airlines provided an extra flight on a Boeing 737-800 to accommodate passengers. Cape Air and United are code-share partners, with Cape Air providing the

Guam-Saipan flights of United passengers traveling to the Commonwealth.

According to flightstats.com and Cape Air, all Cape Air flights to the CNMI were cancelled.

Flights set to fly to Francisco C. Ada International Airport at 8:40am, 3:10pm, 6:55pm, and 10:40pm were cancelled, according to the website.

When asked for an update on these cancellations, Cape Air apologized to customers in a

See **CAPE AIR** on **Page 4**



### FOUR-CAR COLLISION

DPS

A 1996 Ford Aerostar van lies on its side after it hit the rear of a Suzuki Grand Vitara, causing a chain reaction that caused the crash of a Toyota Prius and a Toyota Corolla yesterday afternoon along Middle Road in front of the former H Mart in Gualo Rai. The male driver of a 1996 Ford Aerostar van was injured on his left arm and was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment.

See story on **Page 3**

## Pacific aid donors grapple with China's rise and influence

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** ((Radio New Zealand International)—The traditional external powers in the Pacific Islands are still coming to terms with China's increasing level of engagement with the region.

That was the focus of a conference this week at the National University of Samoa, "China and the Pacific: The View from

» **China one of top 3 regional donors, ongoing debates over transparency**

Oceania," that sought to counter misperceptions about China's role in the region, particularly its aid program.

Organized by Victoria Uni-

versity's Contemporary China Research Centre in conjunction with the Centre for Oceania Studies at China's Sun Yat-sen University and Samoa's University, the conference pulled together a wide range of scholars and policy makers including rarely heard Chinese voices on the issue.

In the last decade, China's

rapid growth has found it eager to spread its influence in a number of regions around the world, including the Pacific.

There are economic and security reasons for this, but also, China said, because it wants to help smaller countries.

Recently, China announced a \$2 billion loan facility available

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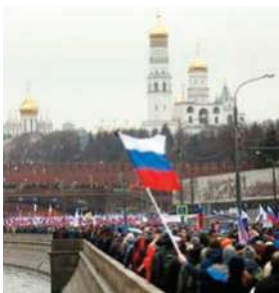
## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

Samsung ditches its plastic design for more stylish metal and glass.

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### WORLD

Tens of thousands honor slain Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov.

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### LIFE & STYLE

It's the dress that's beating the Internet black and blue. Or gold and white?

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GOT A **NEWS TIP?**

TEL: **235-6397**  
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FAX: **235-3740**

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



# MARCH MADNESS

## CELLULAR SPECIALS





## Local



Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres pose with stakeholders after signing the proclamation declaring March as Development Disabilities Awareness Month yesterday at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

JOEL D. PINAROC

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\*Some conditions apply. See store for details.

## March declared Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

The government has proclaimed March as Development Disabilities Awareness Month.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres signed the proclamation Monday in front of attendees that included members of the CNMI Tri-Agency consisting of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, the University of Center of Excellence on Development Disabilities of the Northern Marianas College, and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

One of the highlights of the proclamation was the distribution of the maiden issue of the *Disability Watch* quarterly newsletter. The maiden issue outlines the profiles of the organizations that are part of the CNMI Tri-Agency.

As a tool, the newsletter details ongoing efforts for disability awareness in the Commonwealth. It also gives updates on ongoing programs and advocacy works for the islands' disabled.

Both Inos and Torres expressed support for the newsletter and its goals.

Torres also said the government will look into additional funding for these efforts. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

## Best Sunshine, HS Lee dispute over public land still unsettled

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The tussle between Best Sunshine International, Ltd. and H.S. Lee Construction over a piece of public land remains unresolved.

H.S. Lee Construction was earlier able to secure a temporary restraining order that prevents the Department of Public Lands from conveying any part of a 1,950-square-meter property in Garapan to another business entity.

H.S. Lee Construction Co. is planning to build parking spaces for its commercial building, but Best Sunshine apparently opposed the carving of the lot as it is part of a big land needed for its casino project.

In an interview last week, Best Sunshine CEO Mark Brown said the company's legal counsel is still meeting about the court case, and that there is no other update available at the moment.

In an offer of compromise, the legal counsel of H.S. Lee Construction earlier said the firm would reduce the request for

public land from 1,950 square meters to 1,000 square meters, which would satisfy the needs of both the casino and H.S. Lee and help the government. Best Sunshine reportedly rejected the compromise.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman earlier issued the TRO, pending a hearing and determination of its motion for preliminary injunction.

Assistant attorney general Peter Prestley, counsel for DPL and DPL Secretary Pedro A. Tenorio, had opposed the TRO, saying they do not see any "irreparable harm" to H.S. Lee Construction.

Prestley also said there's no lease agreement yet between DPL and H.S. Lee Construction regarding the land.

Attorney William Fitzgerald, counsel for H.S. Lee Construction, said that DPL first agreed to reserve 1,950 square meters for the 68 parking spaces of H.S. Lee's building, but DPL later claimed the land will be needed for the casino project. Fitzgerald said if his client is not given the piece of land, the company will lose its investments.



# Rapadas vows no tolerance for favoritism



Leonardo M. Rapadas takes his oath as chief prosecutor before Chief Justice Alexandro Castro at the CNMI Supreme Court yesterday afternoon. Also in the photo witnessing the swearing in are Rapadas' wife and friends, along with Attorney General Edward Manibusan and Office of the Attorney General staff.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Newly sworn in Chief Prosecutor Leonardo M. Rapadas vowed yesterday to promote a

culture of intolerance for favoritism during his term. In an interview shortly after

Chief Justice Alexandro Castro administered his oath in a brief ceremony at the CNMI Su-

preme Court, Rapadas said favoritism is not going to happen under his and Attorney General Edward Manibusan's watch.

"My previous position has proven that and I look forward with the AG on that," he said.

Rapadas served as U.S. Attorney for the U.S. Districts of Guam and the NMI from 2003 to 2010. He also served as Guam attorney general from 2011 to 2015.

He disclosed that the OAG is going to be filing more criminal cases.

"We want to instill in the public great confidence in the Attorney General's Office and in law enforcement in general," he said.

Rapadas said he is used to a larger caseload and one of the things he would do at the OAG's Criminal Division is to take a look at the caseload and see what they can do to increase that.

He said there are a number of things they can work on to build a better relationship with the Department of Public Safety and other law enforcement agencies on the islands.

Of his new position, Rapadas said he served the people of the CNMI in a different capacity many years ago and that he's very happy and honored to be asked by first CNMI elected attorney general, Manibusan, to serve as chief prosecutor.

"It's an honor for me. I'm looking forward to the work. There's a lot of work," he said.

Manibusan said he's happy that they were able to get Rapadas as chief prosecutor.

"We need people with experience and real motivation, motivated to do work," said Manibusan, who attended the swearing in, along with other OAG prosecutors and staff.

Manibusan disclosed that they want to reach the minimum of at least nine prosecutors for the Criminal Division.

"We're getting there. In the next few months we will probably have nine prosecutors altogether," he said.

Manibusan also revealed that they are going to get a chief of the OAG's Civil Division, and another attorney for the Criminal Division who will handle other cases not normally handled by the office.

He reiterated his earlier promise to make the OAG the best law firm not only in the CNMI but also in the region.

"What we're trying to do is to make sure that this community is safe and secure so that people can have better lives. That's where we're going and we're almost at that point," Manibusan said.

## DPL, DCCA heads will stay for now, Inos says

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The heads of the departments of Public Lands and Community and Cultural Affairs will remain at the helm of their respective agencies for now.

According to Gov. Eloy S. Inos, DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio will stay as the department's chief because Inos "still needs" Tenorio in the ongoing discussions on public lands to be leased to casino resort operator Best Sunshine International, Ltd.

Inos said the DPL "will soon conclude" talks with Best Sun-

shine, but he gave no other details.

Best Sunshine has been granted an exclusive license to operate a casino on Saipan. The company said it plans to build a multi-billion-dollar integrated resort in the Commonwealth.

As for DCCA Secretary Laura Ogumoro, the governor says she is staying until a replacement is named.

Inos said the DCCA chief is also set to meet with her staff, to talk about some of the staff's concerns.

DCCA employees earlier sought the ouster of Ogu-

moro through a complaint letter sent to Capital Hill. The complaint centered on Ogumoro's alleged mismanagement of DCCA.

Ogumoro last week said she continues to carry out her responsibilities in making improvements at the department despite several staff concerns over her leadership.

She also dismissed the allegations, saying these are intended only to disrupt her ongoing work for DCCA.

The Office of the Governor, meanwhile, released the ap-

pointment letter of Robert A. Guerrero as commissioner for the Department of Corrections.

Guerrero's appointment is subject to approval of the Senate.

## 1 injured in four-vehicle crash

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A driver was injured after a four-vehicle accident along Chalan Pale Arnold Road or Middle Road in front of the former H Mart in Gualo Rai yesterday afternoon.

The male driver of a 1996 Ford Aerostar van was injured on his left arm and was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment, police said.

The other vehicles involved were a white 2013 Toyota Prius, a red 2005 Suzuki Grand Vitara, and a white 2014 Toyota Corolla.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Hurst said DPS Dispatch was notified of a vehicular crash that occurred in front of the former H Mart along Middle Road at 4:39pm.

When police officers arrived at the scene, they saw it involved four vehicles, includ-

ing the white Ford Aerostar that was resting on its left side. The Ford Aerostar was blocking the northbound lanes of traffic.

Department of Fire and Emergency Services personnel arrived and brought the injured driver to the hospital.

Hurst said investigation showed that the Ford Aerostar van was traveling on the innermost southbound lane when it hit the rear of the Suzuki Grand Vitara.

As a result, the Suzuki Grand Vitara crashed into the rear of the Toyota Prius, which was stopped in traffic.

The impact of the collision caused the Ford van to tip on its side onto the northbound lane. As a result, the Toyota Corolla crashed into the Ford van.

Hurst said no one was issued a traffic citation as investigation was still ongoing as of yesterday.

The accident snarled traffic in the area for several minutes.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. at the Mayor's Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, in San Jose Village, Tinian.

#### AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS<sup>1</sup>
- III. EXECUTIVE SESSION<sup>2</sup>
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
  1. Review & Approval of spring 2015, Academic Year 2014-2015 Scholarship Applicants (continuation)
  2. Start amendment on current policy (continuation)
  3. Disbursement schedule of spring 2015 recipients
- V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER
- VI. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/ JULIAN U. HOFSCHEIDER  
Chairman

<sup>1</sup> We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

<sup>3</sup> Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

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# USCIS works to regularize widower's immigration status

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. government and Obaydul Hoque Bhuiyan, a Bangladeshi widower of a U.S. citizen wife who sued to stop his deportation, are making steady progress toward the regularization of Bhuiyan's immigration status via the ad-

ministrative process.

U.S. Department of Justice Office of Immigration Litigation trial attorney Sarah L. Vuong and Bhuiyan's counsel, Joseph E. Horey, filed a second joint status report with the U.S. District Court for the CNMI on Friday.

Vuong and Horey informed the court that they will contin-

ue to work together to resolve Bhuiyan's case.

The lawyers said they will file by June 1, 2015, another joint status report or stipulation to dismiss Bhuiyan's lawsuit.

Vuong and Horey said the U.S. immigration court in Saipan ordered Bhuiyan's immigration proceedings recalendared and terminated without

prejudice, which means it can be re-opened in the future.

The parties said U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has reopened Bhuiyan's Form I-485 or application to adjust status. The application remains pending.

Form I-485 is required as the final step for an alien in the U.S. to adjust status to that of lawful

permanent resident.

USCIS has approved Bhuiyan's previous parole-in-place applications. He is in the process of preparing his application for a CW-1 visa.

USCIS has revoked Bhuiyan's Form I-360 Form, or a petition for Amerasian, widower or special immigration application. However, he is pursuing an administrative appeal of the revocation.

The parties agreed to ask the court to keep vacating the U.S. government's deadline to respond to Bhuiyan's complaint.

Bhuiyan has been residing in the CNMI for 19 years now. His U.S. citizen wife died less than three years after their marriage.

In his lawsuit filed last June, Bhuiyan asked the court to issue an order declaring that he has been lawfully present in the CNMI since Nov. 28, 2009, when local immigration fell under federal control.

Bhuiyan asked the court to issue a mandatory injunction requiring the U.S. government to immediately grant him humanitarian parole in place in the CNMI.

Horey stated in the complaint that Bhuiyan first came to the CNMI from Bangladesh in 1996, and has resided in the

CNMI continuously since then.

On March 5, 2004, Bhuiyan married Ana Atalig, also known as Ana Atalig Torres, a U.S. citizen.

After his marriage, Bhuiyan applied for and was issued an immediate relative permit by the CNMI government. Bhuiyan renewed his IR permit in 2005 and 2006.

Horey said that, on July 7, 2006, about two years and three months after her marriage to Bhuiyan, Atalig died. After Atalig's death, plaintiff renewed his IR permit in 2007, 2008, and 2009.

On Sept. 27, 2011, USCIS approved Bhuiyan's Form I-360 but then revoked it in 2012, for the reason that he and his wife had been married for longer than two years at the time of her death.

USCIS advised Bhuiyan that his Form I-360 had been "inadvertently approved."

Bhuiyan's Form I-485 was denied, due to the prior revocation of his Form I-360. Bhuiyan applied for humanitarian parole in place, which was denied.

On March 12, 2013, Bhuiyan was issued a notice to appear for removal proceedings, on the ground that he was "an immigrant not in possession of a valid unexpired immigrant visa."

## PACIFIC

From Page 1

to Pacific countries in the next few years.

China's Ambassador to Samoa, Li Yanduan, said China takes its role as a leading member of the global community seriously.

"It is our belief that common development is good for the interests of China and also the rest of the developing countries," said Li. "That's why we think the Pacific island countries are important and we would like to contribute something to the development of the region."

While Australia is still far ahead as the region's biggest aid donor, China has rapidly risen to enter the top three to sit alongside the United States, ahead of Japan and New Zealand.

However, exact figures and data on China's aid programs in the region have not been readily available, something Dr. Philip Brant, a specialist in Chinese aid in the Pacific with the Lowy Institute for Public Policy, said makes finding out the true value of Chinese aid to the Pacific difficult to gauge.

"The challenge is that we do have an expectation around transparency with some of our traditional development partners," she said.

"I think the challenge for China is that it has a small aid bureaucracy managing a rather large program that's now one of the largest donors in the world.

"Their statistical ability is not to the same level as other donors and so we have an expectation

on China that, at the moment, they can't meet," said Brant.

Chinese officials said effectiveness, rather than transparency, was the country's priority.

However, various complaints had emerged from recipient countries about the quality of the aid projects.

Brant says 78 percent of Chinese aid in the Pacific is in the form of concessional loans, which typically mean projects for building infrastructure such as roads and hospitals are carried out by Chinese contractors.

Brant said there are concerns about a lack of follow up.

"We have traditionally seen a concern in the region about ongoing maintenance costs of some of these projects," said Brant.

"But, to be fair, both the Pacific Islands governments and the Chinese are realizing that there needs to be some change in the way that these projects and programs are implemented."

Yet, to the apparent surprise of some traditional partners, Pacific government have indicated that China is often more responsive to their needs.

Paul D'Arcy, from the Australian National University's College of Asia and the Pacific, said that at the same time, island leaders have learned how to seek out beneficial aid partnerships.

"What we are now seeing in the nature of Chinese aid is that we get Chinese entrepreneurs or Chinese companies coming and saying, 'what do you want?', because they have to go and then sell that to Chinese state banks and so it's very much more so a partnership at a ground level

getting these aid programs going," said D'Arcy.

Professor Terence Wesley-Smith, director of the University of Hawaii's Center for Pacific Studies, said China's foray into the Pacific was the biggest challenge yet to influence the region of the traditional external powers: Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

"It's not a military challenge," said Wesley-Smith. "It's a challenge to a sort of regime of aid and support that's been developed over many decades and it's a regime of support which comes with an agenda."

Wesley-Smith said, for instance, Australia's aid to the islands is often tied to conditions around political and governance reform and neo-liberal economic opportunities.

"There's sort of been a monopoly of aid donors who are agreed that these are the conditions and that monopoly has now effectively been broken by the emergence of China as an alternative aid donor which offers support without political conditions, and from the islands' perspective, I think most Pacific leaders, at least, welcome this because it offers them new opportunities that they didn't have before—new trading partners, new possible sources of investment, and possibilities of working with powers other than traditional external powers."

Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi of Samoa said China in the region filled certain gaps.

"The problem of course is that different countries, development partners of the region,

have different priorities, and that's why I mention that China comes in as providing supplementary resources available to the region, coving those areas which are not covered in traditional aid donor programs," said Tuilaepa.

Professor Liu Hongzhong of the Centre for Oceania Studies at Peking University said some Western countries were not used to seeing China's aid efforts in the region.

"China has a big population and people will have doubts about the motives and whether they're going to take the lead or change the rules, or whatever.

"So why don't we just take China as another traditional member of the donors," she asked.

"If New Zealand or Australia were going to donate, would anyone have doubts about their motives?"

A number of delegates at the Samoa conference were at pains to point out that there was room for a wide range of partners in the Pacific region.

Ambassador Li said China was not looking to usurp other donor countries, but to work together. "We think the diplomatic corps, we think it's quite open and people just exchange the information about the assistance, development, land—something like that."

China has recently shown that it is increasingly flexible and learning more about aid delivery by working with other donor countries in the Pacific, such as with Australia on malaria prevention in Papua New Guinea, and with New Zealand on a tripartite water project in the Cook Islands.

## CAPE AIR

From Page 1

statement yesterday afternoon.

"Cape Air/United Express flights between Guam and Saipan on March 2, 2015 operating an ATR42 aircraft have been cancelled following the continued technical issue that is currently being addressed by teams from Cape Air and ATR. We will continue to provide updates on the anticipated dates and times when the aircraft will return to service. United will operate an extra flight today by using a Boeing 737-800 aircraft to accommodate the affected passengers. UA2104 is scheduled to depart Guam on Mar. 2 at 8:30pm and is expected to arrive at Saipan at 9:10pm. Then, the flight is scheduled to depart Saipan at 9:55pm and arrive at

Rota at 10:33pm. This flight is scheduled to depart Rota at 11:18pm and arrive at Guam at 11:52pm."

Our support teams in Guam, Saipan, and Rota are providing assistance to passengers to make the necessary arrangements for them to complete their travel. We realize this is an inconvenience to our customers and we apologize for the disruption."

Swaths of flights were cancelled during the middle months of last year largely due to technical issues. United flew accommodating flights at that time as well.

Cape Air has only one aircraft operating its Guam-CNMI route, while another is used as a "100 percent spare," according to Cape Air vice president for planning Andrew Bonney earlier. The spare is currently in the U.S. mainland for servicing.

## PLANES

From Page 1

from the direction of Northfield at my altitude and definitely within Delta airspace," said the Star Marianas pilot, whose name was redacted from the report.

The C-130 was followed by another C-130, which was slightly off the lead C-130's left wing, the pilot said.

Both planes had nose-high altitude and were climbing in the pilot's direction, the pilot stated.

The C-130s came directly through the standard altitude and routing flown by commercial planes between the islands.

"I called tower and reported that a C-130 was coming

at me and stated it passed within about 300 feet of my aircraft and asked if they knew about that aircraft being there. The tower stated that they had not known and that the aircraft had just called them," the pilot said.

The pilot noted that military aircraft often use ultra-high frequencies, or UHF frequencies, that civilian aircraft do not have. This makes civilian aircraft unable to hear communication from military aircraft when they use these frequencies.

The pilot said that if the Saipan tower's comments regarding the communication with the military aircraft was correct, both C-130s had violated the requirement to establish communication with the tower "prior to entering the

Delta airspace, as my aircraft and theirs were clearly inside the Delta airspace when the incident occurred."

In an interview close to press time, Star Marianas president Shaun Christian confirmed the details the pilot had reported.

He said they look to the Federal Aviation Administration to see what the next course of action is, as they recently reported the incident to the FAA office in Guam, as a "near midair collision," or NMAC.

NMAC is defined as "an incident associated with the operation of an aircraft in which a possibility of collision occurs as a result of proximity of less than 500 feet to another aircraft," or a report that stated a collision hazard existed between two or more planes.

Christian said the plane so far had not been unidentified and that it is believed it came from the military branches involved in last month's Cope North exercise.

He said the plane was grey colored.

Christian called the incident a "communication problem," as it was unclear whether the military had duly informed the Saipan tower of its approach into civilian airspace.

"According to our pilot, no announcement had been made prior to entering Delta airspace," he said.

"There needs to be procedures and plans for better communication" between the military and the local airport, he said.

This air incident comes at a

time when both Saipan and Tinian airport activity continues to increase, according to Star Marianas.

Saipan averages 298 flights per day, and Tinian averages 137 flights per day, for a combined 350 flights, according to Star Marianas. Some days there are more than 400 civilian commercial flights conducted within the 10 miles of airspace between the islands of Saipan and Tinian, Star Marianas claims.

"Adding military into that airspace, which is already nearly saturated at times, is creating unacceptable levels of risk, especially given the limited resources provided to the tower and ATC [air traffic control]."

Star Marianas noted that if flight operations continue to grow, ATC must be provided

with radar to help ensure adequate separation of traffic, as is done in Guam.

The airline recommends that the military be held responsible for compliance with the rules and regulations required by the FAA.

They recommend that military flight operations should not interfere with civilian traffic operating between Saipan and Tinian, and that the military should refrain from climbing through the standard civilian flight path between islands.

*Saipan Tribune* contacted the Commonwealth Ports Authority to identify the C-130 planes, and verify if the military did not actually call the tower in due time, but no answer or additional details could be had before press time.



# 'More flights, hotel rooms keys to boosting Japan arrivals'

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Securing low cost carriers that will fly to the Commonwealth and adding more hotel rooms are key to boosting Japanese arrivals to the islands, according to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

In response to lawmakers' call to rebuild the Japan market during MVA's meeting with the 19th Legislature on Monday,

Tenorio said that securing more flights and building more hotels could help boost tourist arrivals from the islands' once No. 1 source market.

"The key to rebuilding Japanese arrivals is to secure new flights, particularly from Osaka and Nagoya, which used to be important source markets for the CNMI. With the rise of low-cost carriers in Japan, MVA is targeting all the major low-cost carriers to launch new service to the

CNMI, just as Jeju Air has done from Korea. This will be the single most important key to rebuilding arrivals from Japan back to record heights," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

The other is to ensure that the CNMI has enough hotel rooms to accommodate the added tourist traffic.

"With soaring arrival numbers from Korea and China, total visitor arrivals to the CNMI last month were at record levels and more than replaced the declines we are seeing from Japan and Russia. The current new development of hotel rooms in the CNMI is urgently needed to allow us to rebuild arrivals from Japan back to historic levels,"



Tenorio

Tenorio said.

The peak of Japanese arrivals to the CNMI was in 2005 with 352,099 visitors, just before Japan Airlines cancelled flights to the Commonwealth.

The lack of airlift to replace the lost Japan Airlines service from Osaka and Narita and the lost Delta Air Lines service from Nagoya meant that CNMI arrival numbers from Japan have fallen steadily since then.

The Fukushima earthquake and tsunami in 2011 and the consumption tax hike in April 2014 also significantly impacted Japanese visitor numbers, reaching a low of 110,234 visitors to the CNMI last year, according to Tenorio.

## 2015 initiatives

MVA is launching a variety of public relations and marketing programs in Japan in order to start rebuilding arrivals, including airlift development, rebranding, and visibility.

According to Tenorio, MVA has appointed an airline specialist within MVA Japan to work aggressively with all potential low-cost carriers in Japan to have them consider the CNMI as their next new destination.

The results of a Japan market research also showed a need to rebrand and refresh the CNMI's destination image in Japan.

The MVA's key rebranding vehicle is the "Flower Islands" branding, which is currently being developed, and MVA is working with all the major travel agents in Japan to launch new

"Flower Island" packages and promotions, including trade familiarization tours and training programs throughout Japan.

Another is positioning the CNMI as the "Sports Islands," targeting the active outdoors enthusiasts and the sports enthusiasts seeking to participate in events such as the Saipan Marathon.

"We continue to maximize exposure for the CNMI through a wide range of trade and PR with a variety of key stakeholders including Japan Saipan Travel Association, Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands, Japan Marianas Tourism Club, and the MVA's Japan Adhoc committee as well as the Micronesia-Kai that includes planning managers of wholesalers and airline partners in Japan," Tenorio said.

## NCD Alliance to meet Thursday

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Non-Communicable Disease Alliance will be meeting for the second time this Thursday to plan out its strategies to combat NCDs in the CNMI. The meeting will be at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan, from 9am to 12pm.

At its last meeting in December, the alliance agreed to work on strategies to counter the near-epidemic rate of non-communicable diseases in the CNMI in a separate meeting.

This Thursday, the NCD Alliance will have updates from its new officers that includes the NCD Alliance mission, guiding principles, mantra, committees, 2015 priorities, plan of action, and schedule of future meetings.

They will also talk about the NCD surveillance efforts of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health.

NCD Alliance chair Dr. Don Hardt will also talk about a pilot diabetes prevention program.

Working groups will be formed for the strategic plan

and targeted goals. This will help health officials emphasize the urgent need to adopt changes in people's lifestyle to combat the spread of NCDs, particularly since traditional ways and practices of islanders contribute to these NCDs.

The NCD Alliance is a group of various stakeholders that include CHCC, DPH, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Nutrition Assistance Program, the Public School System, media groups, Hardt Eye Clinic, Northern Marianas College-CREES, Commonwealth Cancer Association, Rota Health Center, Kagman Community Health Center, Staywell, Tinian Health Center, Division of Youth Services, Community Guidance Center, Marianas Health Services, Let's Move Marianas, CNMI Diabetes Coalition, disability stakeholders, community members, and other organizations.

The top five leading chronic diseases in the CNMI—all of which causes death and disability—are cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, renal disease, and diabetes.

## Girl allegedly steals beers, firecrackers

A 19-year-old girl was arrested for allegedly stealing three bottles of Red Horse beer and a pack of firecrackers from a store in Garapan.

Police recovered the three bottles of beer after Janet L. Jones allegedly admitted to stealing the items with the aid of her cousin. The firecrackers were not recovered as Jones and her cousin had already allegedly popped them.

Jones was arrested for assault, assault and battery, theft, disturbing the peace, and minor consuming liquor.

Her bail was set yesterday at \$1,750 cash. As part of her bail conditions, Jones is prohibited from having any contact with Saipan Fresh Market, which is owned by missing Chinese businessman Zhi Yuan Li. Preliminary hearing will be on March 10 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed counsel for Jones.

Police detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that two police officers responded to Saipan Fresh Market after receiving a call

from Li's daughter about a theft incident on Saturday at 8:30pm.

The officers learned that Li's girlfriend and one of the store's staff chased Jones, who ran to her house in Upper Miha. Before entering her house, the suspect allegedly pushed Li's girlfriend and threatened to beat her up.

The officer viewed the store's surveillance camera, which showed Jones taking some items and leaving without paying them.

A police officer then went to Jones' house and confronted her for smelling of alcohol as she's still underage.

Jones stated she only took a sip but later confessed to the officer that she stole some items from the store with the help of her cousin. She pointed to the location of the stolen bottles of beer that she hid under a tree south of the Saipan Fresh Market. Police found the bottles of beer.

This was allegedly not the first time that Jones stole items from Saipan Fresh Market. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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# Eucon, Agape students make up Team NMI for Mathleague

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Students of Eucon International School and Agape Christian School will represent the CNMI in the Mathleague National Elementary Competition in Houston, Texas in June.

The students earned their spot on the team after finishing in the top four in last month's Math Court state competition.

Eucon's Joanah Jimenez won gold, and Agape's Anderson Zunag, Victoria Ancheta, and Silas Xu followed.

Alternates, from fifth to sixth place, were Saipan International School's Cevina Hwang, Golden Harvest International School's John Labadan, and Agape's Tychius Xu and Kevin Tang.

For the team competition, Eucon won gold, Whispering Palms School won silver, and Agape won bronze.

In order to maintain their spot, national members need to attend weekly practices, as well as turn in all documentation for travel, according to CNMI Mathcourt administrator Reo Arriola.

If a member of a team cannot attend for any reason, due to paperwork or absences during practice sessions, for example, the alternate who attends the most practice session is offered a spot on the team, he said.

The second annual National Elementary Championship will be held in Houston on June 6, 2015.



Students of Eucon International School and Agape Christian School form the CNMI Team that will represent the Commonwealth in the Mathleague National Elementary Competition in Houston, Texas in June.



Students of Eucon International School have their picture taken after winning the gold medal in the team competition of last month's Math Court state competition.

## House lauds Benavente's efforts to promote CNMI tourism



Vicky Benavente, who is joined here by her husband, former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente, is presented with a House resolution that recognizes her efforts to promote tourism in the Commonwealth.

Vicky Benavente, who chairs the Marianas Tourism Education Council, has been presented with a House of Representatives resolution to give due recognition to her efforts to promote tourism in the Commonwealth.

At a House session on Friday, lawmakers gave a plaque of recognition to Benavente, who was voted 2014's "Business Person of the Year" by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The resolution cited Benavente's efforts on tourism promotion and voluntary works.

Upon receiving the plaque, Benavente again emphasized the importance of tourism in the Commonwealth and thanked the lawmakers for the recognition. She said tourism continues to be "everybody's business and not just the Chamber's."

She vowed to continue helping the growth of local tourism, which continues to be Saipan's No. 1 industry.

Benavente was cited by the Chamber for her extensive work in the tourism industry and her involvement with a number of outreach and volunteer programs benefiting the local community.

Benavente, the wife of former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente, is a veteran of the CNMI's tourism sector, having worked more than 30 years in the local tourism and hospitality industry.

She is currently the executive assistant manager of Pacific Islands Club Saipan. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

JOEL D. PINAROC



# GCA, MHS students get full ride to JSA School

By THOMAS MANGLONA II  
CORRESPONDENT

Every year, the Department of the Interior awards full scholarships to four CNMI high school students to attend the Junior Statesmen of America Summer School program at prestigious universities. This summer, one Grace Christian Academy student and three Marianas High

School students will be participating in the rigorous three-week summer program.

GCA's Minna Ito and MHS' Angel Mar Pamintuan, Mary Grace Tiglaio, and Robert Jomar Malate were awarded full scholarships for the summer.

Malate, a sophomore, and Pamintuan, a junior, chose to attend the JSA Summer School at Princeton. Sopho-

more Ito will be attending the JSA's Stanford Summer School, while Tiglaio, a junior, chose to attend JSA's Summer School at Georgetown.

Ito, who will be studying Speech and Political Communications, said she did not expect to receive the full ride.

"Given the number and the caliber of the applicants, I did not raise my hopes on

being accepted or receiving the scholarship," she said. "I am very thankful that I was accepted to this prestigious program. It would not have happened without God, my family, friends, and teachers."

Ito is looking forward to sharing the island culture with her summer school classmates.

"Educating others of this 'rock in the Pacific' is some-

thing I enjoy doing, and I will definitely seize the summer program as an opportunity to do so," she explained. "Furthermore I am also excited to share my political views on several issues today, as my culture shaped my worldview in a way unique from those who live in mainland America."

JSA Territory program director Ed Banayat told *Saipan Tribune* that a total of 28 students from U.S. territories and Freely Associated States are awarded scholarships every year.

"Courses vary from campus to campus but range from AP

U.S. Government, Speech and Political Communication to Constitutional Law and International Relations," he said.

According to the organization's website, JSA's goal is to educate students and train them to speak out. The summer program challenges students to "be the people" who are actively engaged in making their communities, states, and the world a better place.

The DOI scholarship has been in existence since 1991. Since its inception, 400 students from the CNMI have attended JSA Summer Programs.

## New NMC CREES dean arrives

The Northern Marianas College's a new dean for their Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service program arrived at the college this week.

Tim Kock, Ph.D., previously University of Maryland assistant director of international programs in agriculture and natural resources, is the new dean.

The position had been filled in the interim by Patricia Coleman, after long-time dean Ross Manglona was sent packing in July last year. Manglona's contract expired in August 2014.

According to Kock's Linke-

dIn account, before UOM, he had served under several titles under the Louis Berger Group from 2010 to 2012 in Iraq. The last title he held for the group was senior agricultural extension specialist.

Other countries he has worked in include Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, and Kenya, according to LinkedIn.

Kock will lead a program that works with community and business stakeholders in such areas as agriculture, aquaculture, food processing, and research, among others. (Dennis B. Chan)



### MARKING THE BIG SIX-OH

Malou Mendoza, fifth back, is surrounded by Northern Marianas Badminton Association officials and members during her 60th birthday celebration last Saturday at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## NMC adopts \$8.4 million budget request

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College adopted a budget appropriations request to the tune of \$8.4 million, ahead of Friday's deadline before the close of business.

### THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS OF SAIPAN Family grief support meeting on March 5

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding its monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, March 5, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We have "been there." We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no "right way" to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and Saipan offer friendship, understanding,

The \$8.4 million for appropriations includes funding primarily for personnel, according to chief financial officer Tracy Guerrero, who presented the budget to the board on Thursday.

According to her, \$6.8 million is for current and vacant

full-time equivalent positions, as well as federally funded positions the college anticipates will need funding as grants expire.

They also requested five FTEs to be reinstated for funding in the budget, she indicated.

Adjunct and overload costs will be added in for the first time this year. This cost averages, more or less, around \$800,000 a year, Guerrero said

in an interview.

Previously, the college had paid for this with student tuition and fees.

A line item added last year and sought again is for \$686,000 in salary adjustments for all staff and faculty, as well \$200,000 for faculty ranking adjustments.

Other requests cover utilities and the Office of Public Auditor's required 1 percent.

David K. and Maria T. Peter  
P.O. Box 500422  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone No.: (670) 783-8281/234-7890

pro se

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of ) FCD-AD-  
The Adoption Of: ) CIVIL ACTION  
AP.N.M. ) NO. 14-0223  
(d.o.b. 3/24/2005 )  
Minor Child )

By: ) NOTICE OF  
HEARING

David K. and )  
Maria T. Peter )  
Petitioner(s) )

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on **March 30, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.** in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge **Kenneth L. Govendo**.

Dated this 9th day of February, 2015.

Patrick V. Diaz  
Clerk of Court  
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ, F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff:

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF THE FEDERATED ) CIVIL ACTION  
STATES OF MICRONESIA, ) No. 12-0302

Plaintiff, )  
-v- )

JOHN HENRY I. TAGABUEL )  
and MICHELLE T. IGINOEF, )  
aka MICHELLE MARIA I. TAGABUEL )  
Defendants. )

### THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 30, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 010K 77, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 901 square meters, more or less, as more particularly shown on Drawing/ Cadastral Plat no. 010 K 01, the original of which was recorded August 19, 1987, as File no. 87-2911, at the Office of Commonwealth Recorder.

**Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on Friday, March 13, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Terms and Condition of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 10th day of February, 2015  
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

**Procurement And Supply  
CNMI Government**

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**RFP NO.: RFP15-BECQ/DCRM-055**  
**SUBMISSION: MARCH 26, 2015      TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"TO PERFORM HUMAN RESOURCES DESK AUDITS  
FOR THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"**

The Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive, Saipan during regular working hours.

A pre-proposal meeting will be conducted on March 12, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., local time at the Bureau of Environmental Quality Office Conference Room. Questions for this project must be submitted in writing no later than the close of business, March, 16, 2015 to Ms. Fran Castro, DCRM Director by facsimile to (670) 664-8318 or by email to francastro@crnm.gov.mp.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAUIMAN  
Administrator of BECQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON  
Director, P&S

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

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Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan or e-mail it to [It\\_recruitment@tanholdings.com](mailto:It_recruitment@tanholdings.com). Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, March 09, 2015.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Happy birthday Daddy Jesse and Grandma Vicky! We love you too much! Lots of love from Ana, Jesse Boy, and JoDanny.



# 11th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival just 'pika'

"Pika" is the perfect word to describe the 11th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 14-15, 2015, as "pika" is a Chamorro word that can mean both "spicy" or "spot-on."

The annual President's Day weekend celebration held in honor of *donni sali*, a small but potent hot pepper that is indigenous to the island, offered the perfect blend of island partying at the festival grounds and quiet escape at isolated beaches and back roads. Mayor JP San Nicholas welcomed visitors to the event during the opening ceremony, where Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio and 15th Tinian Municipal Council chair Raynaldo Cing also spoke.

Twenty-five vendors joined the event, which also featured non-stop entertainment, including live performances by Kilani Dance group, the Sunset Cruisers, and Danny Laniyo of Saipan. Other entertainment was provided by groups from Tinian, including Tinian Elementary Chamorro Bilingual Group, Tom Hoshi's Dance Group, HD Crew Dance, Nikita & Anthony's Band, Tao Tao Taga Cultural Dance Academy, and more.

"The island of Tinian has much to offer visitors throughout the year in terms of natural beauty and history," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "But the Hot Pepper Festival puts Tinian's



Bands and dance groups including the Sunset Cruisers provide live entertainment during the 11th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in the Northern Mariana Islands on Feb. 14-15, 2015. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

island life and island hospitality in the spotlight, making it a great weekend for all."

Tinian native Corey Jess San Nicolas again took bragging rights in the hot pepper eating competition men's division. In the women's set, Lucia Ayuyu walked away with the top honor. Both also earned \$150, while second place winners earned \$100, and third place winners garnered \$75.

In the *estafao pika* (spicy beef stew) cooking competition, Jason Santos received the winning nod from judges for his flavorful blend incorporating the celebrated pepper.

In the popular *umang* (hermit crab) race, a number of youngsters pitted their shelled competitors against each other on a wooden track. First place went to Hailey Rae Santos' entry in the girls division and Brayden



Ladies compete in the hot pepper eating contest during the 11th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in the Northern Mariana Islands on Feb. 14-15, 2015. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Santos in the boys division.

In more vigorous efforts, the team of JC Café topped the dragon boat race, Team Umang hammered the beach volleyball win, and hot pepper champion San Nicholas also took first place in the tug of war.

Rounding out the weekend of fun and festivity, Nang's Snack Mobile pocketed \$200 for having the best-decorated booth at the venue.

The annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, held on Presidents Day weekend in February, is organized by the MVA and co-sponsored by the Tinian Mayor's Office, Tinian Municipal Council, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, and MARPAC. (MVA)

The crowd enjoys entertainment at the 11th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 14-15, 2015, in the Northern Mariana Islands. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Palau to receive \$792K in technical assistance grants

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina approved and released last week \$792,437 in funding under the OIA Technical Assistance program for fiscal year 2015. The grants will help the Government of the Republic of Palau complete its 2015 Census of Population, Housing and Agriculture, develop a 10-year Tourism Master Plan, and provide

FDIC examiner training for ongoing institutional capacity building in Palau's banking sector.

"Each of these projects will provide tools critical for leaders and policy makers in Palau," said Kia'aina. "We are pleased to support Palau in its

**» To complete 2015 Census, develop 10-year tourism master plan and provide FDIC examiner training**

national planning, tourism and economic development, and banking security.

Palau's 2015 Census, incorporates population, housing and agricultural data, all indicators of the economic development, population trends, self-

sufficiency and food security in Palau. The Census is also expected to provide important information regarding the effectiveness of economic development strategies such as the completion of the Compact Road and relocation of the National Government capitol to Babeldaob Island.

According to a 2012 International Monetary Fund report on Palau, travel receipts in tourism

amount to about 50 percent of GDP, more than twice the Pacific Island average and among the highest in the world. Palau's Bureau of Tourism seeks to develop a Tourism Master Plan developing high-end tourism, focusing on markets with greatest potential while balancing Palau's culture, natural resources and ability to absorb further expansion. The plan will also address the need for a legal and regulatory framework for the tourism industry,

infrastructure improvements, and workforce capacity.

The Palau Financial Institutions Commission ensures liquidity and solvency of banking institutions in Palau and currently monitors seven banking institutions, three of which are insured by the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The training will enhance the ability of FIC staff to conduct bank examinations and provide subsequent analytical reporting. (OIA)



# MHS Band Club cleanup hits the right note

Marianas High Band Club hit the right note recently by joining the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program.

Twelve members of the band and their chaperone met at The Shack in Oleai and picked up trash and debris along the beach to Quartermaster Road intersection.

"We collected various debris, which included empty cans, broken glass, articles of clothing, plastic, etc.," said the group in their post-action report.

Participants were adviser Gina Aguilar, Diana Lopera, Marcy Ermitanio, Nickles Salmon, Janelle Agulto, Joyce Alfonso, Yuleen Huang, Kathy He, Justina Lee, Daniel Han, Kadi Camacho, Raymon Agno, and Angelica Racelis.

"Through the Beautify My Marianas program, groups like the Marianas High Band Club are able to support tourism by joining the MVA's destination enhancement efforts," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin

Duenas. "Interested groups are encouraged to download an application off our website and contact marketing assistant Aggie Ketebebang, who

coordinates the program."

The "Beautify My Marianas" program offers \$100 for each 1-mile cleanup in assigned areas.

For more information or an application for "Beautify My Marianas" visit the MVA homepage at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com). (MVA)



The Marianas High Band Club joined the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program and collected trash from Oleai Beach to Quartermaster Road on Jan. 26, 2015. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## MHS Prom Committee beautifies As Terlaje hill

To raise funds for this year's senior prom, the Marianas High School Prom Committee recently cleaned up in As Terlaje as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas campaign.

Six members of the committee picked up trash along As Terlaje hill on Feb. 7, 2015.

"At first, everyone thought it would be a hard assignment since the strip that was given to us was a hill," said the group in their post-action report. "We were very fortunate to have the weather on our side because it would be such a disaster if the rain came while we were picking up trash."

Sweeping along both sides of the hill, the group netted cans, plastic, cloth, broken headlights, food containers, cigarette butts,

and more in their efforts.

"Knowing that we were doing it to help the community gives us a realization that if we all come together, we can make Saipan more attractive, making the tourists come back to enjoy the island lifestyle and what we have to offer," said the group. "As we collected trash, cars honked. A generous citizen dropped off some refreshments and thanked us for helping the community. The overall road cleanup experience was great."

The "Beautify My Marianas" program offers \$100 for each 1-mile cleanup in assigned areas. For more information or an application for "Beautify My Marianas" visit the MVA homepage at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com). (MVA)



The Marianas High School Prom Committee joined the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program and collected trash along As Terlaje hill on Feb. 7, 2015. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## Team Faiye puts in beautification overtime

Marianas March Against Cancer Team Faiye got a jumpstart on this year's fundraising by joining the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program on Feb. 7-8, 2015.

Twenty-one members of the team put in extra effort by cleaning beyond their assigned area. On Feb. 7 they cleaned from Hotel Street in Garapan to Kristo Rai Church.

"As we reached the fishing base area we came upon a lot of trash," said Keiko Shiprit in the group's post-action report. "Although we weren't assigned to clean that area we decided to clean it as it is the ground used for Tuesday and Thursday market. We raked and collected a lot of trash from this area."

On Feb. 8, 2015, 19 members of the group also cleaned from Oleai Beach to Sugar Dock.

"We thank MVA for this opportunity, and we are eager to do our next island clean up," said Shiprit.

The "Beautify My Marianas" program offers \$100 for each 1-mile cleanup in assigned areas. For more information or an application for "Beautify My Marianas" visit the MVA homepage at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com). (MVA)

Marianas March Against Cancer Team Faiye joined the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program and collected trash in Garapan on Feb. 7, 2015, giving extra attention to Garapan Fishing Base. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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## EDITORIAL

### US visa denials need more explanation

*The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times on Thursday, Feb. 26:*

**F**auzia Din, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Afghanistan who now lives in Fremont, Calif., wants to bring the man she married in 2006 to join her in her adoptive country. Her situation is poignant and her claim that the U.S. government mistakenly denied her husband a visa is at least plausible. Unfortunately, the same can't be said for the constitutional argument her lawyers offered to the Supreme Court this week.

Din's husband applied for a visa and was interviewed by an official at the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan. But his application was denied in 2009 under a provision of immigration law that excludes applicants linked to "terrorist activities." No more detailed explanation was provided, though it's known that he worked as a clerk in Afghanistan's Ministry of Social Welfare under the Taliban.

Given the errors that have plagued the U.S. government's response to terrorism—including the wrongful inclusion of thousands of innocent people on the government's no-fly list and in its terrorist screening database—it's not hard to imagine that a consular official could have made a mistake in concluding that a visa applicant was tainted by terrorist ties. That, however, is not the question for the court, which must answer whether the spouse of a disappointed applicant has a right under the Constitution to have a judge second-guess a visa denial.

An appeals court said yes, and concluded that the government had failed to offer Din a "facially legitimate and bona fide reason" for the denial of her husband's application. She was owed such an explanation, the court said, because the denial interfered with her "protected liberty interest in marriage."

But as the Obama administration noted, the right to marry—which the Supreme Court has said in the past is part of the "liberty" protected by the Constitution—doesn't include the right to live with one's spouse in the U.S. if that spouse has been deported or denied entry. Also, if a spouse can challenge a visa denial in court, why not some other relative? During oral arguments, Din's lawyer agreed that the principle would extend to lawsuits by parents of visa applicants and perhaps by children and siblings.

Most of the justices seemed reluctant to involve the courts in reviewing rafts of visa denials, and we can understand their caution about reading such a requirement into the Constitution.

But Congress should act to require the State Department to provide fuller information about visa denials—even when alleged ties to terrorism are asserted—and to make it easier for applicants and their families to seek a review of adverse decisions.

(c)2015 Los Angeles Times



### Birther II: Ted Cruz really was born in a foreign country

**S**en. Ted Cruz is getting close to announcing his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination. The Texan is spending almost as much time in Iowa and New Hampshire as he does on Fox News; he's hired a staff and collected a long list of fiercely conservative supporters.

There's at least one hitch: Ted Cruz was born in Calgary, in the Canadian province of Alberta. His mother was a U.S. citizen, born in Delaware; his father was a Cuban refugee working in Canada's oil fields. Thanks to his mother, Cruz was a U.S. citizen at birth.

But that doesn't clear up a legal muddle that's as old as the Constitution: Is a U.S. citizen born abroad qualified to serve as president?

I don't agree with Cruz on most issues. He wants to repeal Obamacare, abolish the Internal Revenue Service and pass a constitutional amendment allowing states to outlaw gay marriage, just to take the top of his list. But I still hope he runs—because it's high time we established the right of Canadian-born Americans to serve as president.

Canadian Americans are perhaps our most underappreciated minority. Their contributions to U.S. culture range from hockey to comedy to, well, hockey. It's an impressive list: Wayne Gretzky, William Shatner, Lorne Michaels, Jim Carrey, Pamela Anderson, Alex Trebek. And now Ted Cruz.

At this point I should confess a personal stake: My oldest daughter was born in Toronto. Like Ted Cruz, she inherited U.S. citizenship through one of her parents. But we assured her that she could grow up to be president of the United States. (Proud of her dual citizenship, she says she'd like to serve as prime minister of Canada too.)

Canada is a wonderful country—wilderness on top, oil and gas underneath, plus universal healthcare and sensible gun control laws. All those good things, alas, are not an argument for a Cruz presidency. He has promised not to import any Canadian virtues to the U.S. homeland (except, perhaps, more Alberta oil) if he is elected to the White House.

"Canadians are so polite, mild-mannered, modest, unassuming, open-minded," Cruz joked last year. "Thank God my family fled that oppressive influence before it could change me."

Cruz hasn't simply renounced Canadian moderation; last year, he formally renounced the Canadian half of his dual citizenship.

But even that doesn't settle the constitutional issue—at least not to the satisfaction of some of the "birthers" who charged that President Obama was born outside the United States. "Clearly there is an issue of eligibility," chief birther Orly Taitz told U.S. News a while ago. "It's basically the same issue as Obama."

Except that in Cruz's case, he really was born in a foreign country.

Surprisingly, some legal scholars agree—not that Cruz is unqualified, but that the question isn't a slam-dunk. The Constitution says only a "natural born citizen" can serve as president, but it isn't clear

**By DOYLE MCMANUS**  
Los Angeles Times*Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

whether the Founding Fathers intended that to include U.S. citizens born abroad.

"The consensus (among constitutional lawyers) is that it means citizens at birth," said Gabriel Chin, a professor at UC Davis. "But people are not 100 percent confident."

"In my view, it does merit a test," agreed Sarah Helene Duggin, a professor at the Catholic University of America. Indeed, she argued, if Cruz were to win the Republican nomination, it would be in the nation's interest to get the question settled early.

"If we ever get to the point where we have a presidential candidate with this issue, we will need a clarification," she said. "If the candidate were elected and then disqualified, that would be a serious constitutional crisis."

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) faced a similar issue in 2008 but argued that his birthplace, the Panama Canal Zone, was U.S. territory at the time he was born; the U.S. Senate passed a bipartisan resolution endorsing his eligibility.

It won't be easy to get a once and for all decision. Somebody has to get the question into the courts through a lawsuit. But as the birthers discovered in 2008, most judges don't think voters have legal standing to sue over a candidate's qualifications. (To have standing, a plaintiff has to show that he or she is suffering concrete injury from a defendant's conduct.)

One of Cruz's competitors in the race could sue, but that might not play well as a campaign issue. That leaves the matter in Cruz's hands. As an "originalist" who believes in the literal meaning of the Constitution, he ought to be the first to want that murky phrase in Article II cleared up.

"The Constitution matters—all of the Constitution," Cruz said in 2013. "It's not pick and choose. It's not take what part you like and get rid of the parts you don't like."

If Cruz runs, he should ask a friendly state official to challenge his candidacy. Most legal scholars think he'd win, or at least not lose. (The courts might leave it to the voters to decide.) Win or lose, he would have the satisfaction of making constitutional history. Besides, my daughter wants to know if she can start thinking about 2024.



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## Jeb Bush, Iraq, and the truth

As the Islamic State's barbarities make headlines, Republican presidential candidates are scrambling to outdo each other's hawkish pronouncements on foreign policy. That makes political sense. With the economy improving, polls show that voters now consider terrorism to be as important a campaign issue for 2016 as economic issues. And Obama's incoherent efforts to degrade the Islamic State make him an easy target.

But when Jeb Bush, in a major foreign policy speech last week, tried to pin the blame for the Islamic State's rise entirely on Obama it made my blood boil. The Mideast collapse that paved the way for the terrorists' rise was precipitated by his brother's misbegotten war in Iraq.

And if GOP hopefuls continue to whitewash George W.'s strategic errors (and Jeb has hired some of the very advisors who made them, such as former Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz), then Republicans will surely repeat those errors if they take the White House in 2016.

The former Florida governor briefly admitted in his speech that "there were mistakes made, for sure" in the Iraq war. He limited those to his brother's use of intelligence (on Saddam's nuclear weapons program) that "everyone embraced," but turned out to be inaccurate, and to "not creating an environment of security" in Iraq after taking out Saddam Hussein.

But Jeb skipped entirely over the bloody Iraq years of 2003-2007. Instead, he praised his brother's "heroic" surge strategy—which sent thousands more U.S. troops to Iraq and stabilized the country. He then criticized Obama's decision to remove all troops from Iraq by 2011. This, he said, "created a void" that gave Iran greater influence than the United States within the country—and enabled the Islamic State to take over a third of Iraq last year.

This abbreviated version of history ignores the destruction of Iraq that occurred from 2003-2007, as I witnessed firsthand during many visits. (In 2007, I wrote columns in support of the surge under Gen. David Petraeus as the only hope of rescuing Iraq from total chaos,

but that chaos arose on George W.'s watch).

Clumsy U.S. occupation policies totally alienated Iraq's Sunni population, which enabled al-Qaida in Iraq to take root in Sunni areas (AQI was the precursor to the Islamic State). As early as 2004, Iranian-backed Shiite militias began terrorizing Iraqi Sunnis; they are still doing so, leading many Sunnis to support or tolerate the Islamic State. And contrary to Jeb's version, it was his father's administration that opened the door to heavy Iranian influence in the country. That's history.

Bush administration officials like Wolfowitz—the intellectual heavyweight behind the Iraq war—had a complete misunderstanding of the Mideast.

In November, 2002, Wolfowitz told me in an interview that he would be "astonished" if there was instability in Iraq after a war. He expected that the United States would find "the most pro-American population anywhere in the Arab world" in Iraq. The proper historic analogy to describe post-war Iraq, he predicted, would be to compare it to "post-liberation France after World War II."

Unfortunately for Wolfowitz, Iraq was not located in Europe.

Wolfowitz believed that dumping Saddam Hussein would produce a Shiite-led democracy that would become the model for the Mideast, and would inspire the ouster of Shiite Iran's ayatollahs.

Instead, the mass of poor Iraqi Shiites viewed America with suspicion. They remembered that George H.W. Bush had called on them to rise up after the 1991 Gulf War, then let Saddam Hussein slaughter them when they did so.

The Shiite leaders who took power in Iraq looked to Iran for guidance and had deep grievances against the Americans. Iranian influence began to outstrip America's in Iraq not long after Saddam fell.

Unripe for democracy, Iraq collapsed into sectarian warfare. Iraq became the model Arabs cite to prove that democracy leads to chaos. It has also become a model for the Sunni-Shiite sectarian conflict that fueled the Islamic State's rise.

## Getting the political story wrong

The way stories get told about politics, Washington doings and government issues generally these days is too often backwards, twisted, confused, confusing, and half-baked even if delivered with pizzazz.

Those at fault include many of the story tellers, otherwise known as news outlets, ideological ninnyes and first and foremost wily, deceptive politicians. What ultimately gets cheated is the democracy. The public doesn't grasp what's really the case and the weight of its opinion can too easily end up on the side of the devil.

Take, for instance, the story about some Republicans wanting to close down the Department of Homeland Security. What the House voted to do was fund the department but not President Barack Obama's costly, almost surely illegal, unilateral executive order giving a bevy of new rights to illegal immigrants. Democrats said they would prevent any funding at all rather than include that provision. News accounts mostly made it sound as if the GOP was the one threatening to shut down the department.

But suppose I chose to give my wife a vase with a chip of glass missing—I thought the mark lent a touch of authentic antiquity, say—but someone else saw it as an unacceptable effacement, grabbed the vase, smashed it and said I smashed it.

Whatever you think of the right or wrong here, would you agree?

Next consider Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, a Republican

presidential prospect saying he did not know whether or not President Barack Obama was a Christian. Headlines, quickie wrap-ups and commentary of the glazed-eye type made it seem as if he was taking a shot at the president. Read the details in The Washington Post and you learn the opposite is nearer the truth.

Pressed in an interview on whether he thought the president was a Christian, Walker said he had little way of knowing—and, by the way, none of us can assuredly see through to the faith of others, as I am hardly the first to observe. Walker went on that the question was far from pertinent inquiry, adding that it was nevertheless what many reporters delighted in and a reason many dislike the press. He is right. It was gotcha journalism.

For gotcha politics, let's back up to the recent Obama State of the Union address in which Obama said that the minimum wage had to be raised because you cannot support a family on \$15,000 a year.

Point one on the side of truth: Minimum wage earners are often one of many wage earners in a family. The average annual household income for them is said to be about \$53,000.

Point two: As minimum wages go up, some government benefits will often go down, leaving the recipient little better off than earlier.

Final point: An immediate consequence of a hike (with worse to come in the long run) could be as many as a half-million workers being laid off, according to the bipartisan Congressional Budget

## GOP legal attack will cost the party

Republican leaders have reached a new low point by using the judiciary to attack Latino immigrants.

As part of their offensive against President Obama's recent executive order on immigration, which provides temporary deportation relief for an estimated 5 million immigrants, Republicans have resorted to the courts in an attempt to block this desperately needed program.

Republicans in Congress experienced a political setback in early February with their failed legislative efforts to defund Obama's executive order. However, Republican governors from 26 states won a temporary federal injunction a couple of weeks later in Texas from U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen. It's no coincidence that these governors found a friend in the conservative Hanen, who was appointed to the court by President George W. Bush.

The Obama administration seeks to overturn this temporary injunction through the appeals court. But with their judicial recourse, Republican leaders have sent a clear message to Latino immigrants,

in particular, and Latinos, in general, that they are not welcome in the GOP. And this clear and loud message is not only being heard by Latinos, but also by other ethnic groups with large immigrant populations, such as Asian and Pacific Islanders, who comprise about 1.5 million of the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants in this country.

Given the dramatic demographic changes occurring in the United States, with Latinos representing the largest ethnic group and Asian and Pacific Islanders the fastest-growing, Republicans can't afford to alienate these voting blocs if they ever want to win the White House in 2016. According to recent census data, Latinos represent more than 54 million U.S. residents and Asian and Pacific Islanders consist of more than 19 million.

California's GOP learned its lesson the hard way when then-Gov. Pete Wilson supported Proposition 187—a 1994 ballot initiative to deny undocumented immigrants essential services. The political fallout was devastating for Republicans. They have

**By TRUDY RUBIN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.



Yet not a hint of self-criticism was visible on CNN on Sunday when Wolfowitz was asked about Iraq, as he touted Jeb Bush's candidacy. As he told it, the blame was all Obama's.

As I have written, Obama deserves blame for not trying harder to get Iraqi agreement to a U.S. follow-on force of 10,000 advisors after 2011 (although it was Bush 43 who agreed to the overall U.S. combat troops exit from Iraq). Obama also should take heat for an incoherent strategy with respect to the Islamic State, and past failures to arm onetime moderate Syrian rebels.

But the antidote to Obama's wavering is not a revival of the blind jingoism that led to the Iraq debacle. Before calling for U.S. strikes on Iran or U.S. troops to Syria, Republicans should take a frank look at the past, and carefully consider the implications of military action.

They also should be wary of campaign fear-mongering that could precipitate hasty military action against the Islamic State that lacks a strategic framework. We should remember that irresponsible fear-mongering was used by the Bush 43 White House to falsely link Saddam Hussein to al-Qaida and nuclear weapons. (Sorry, Jeb Bush, but there was plenty of available intel that undercut both claims.) We know where that led.

If Jeb Bush is, as he claims, his "own man," he'd do well to study the real history of the Iraq war closely. Better also to stick with his father's more level-headed foreign policy advisers and avoid those whose blindness misled his brother—and kicked off the Mideast's current chaotic mess.

**By JAY AMBROSE**

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



Office. Does Obama think supporting a family with zero wages is better than \$15,000 in wages?

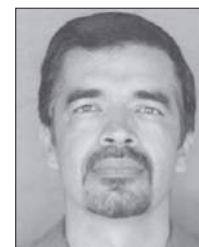
When moral pretension substitutes for analytical clarity, what you get time and again is policy that undermines instead of advances the cause of humanity and sanity. Right now, for example, we are faced with ever increasing federal spending, higher deficits to come, an increasingly unmanageable debt on the way and an absolute need to address the chief cause by adjusting the workings of entitlements if we are not to squash the budget and someday, maybe, the economy.

It can be done without pain, least of all for the least fortunate, but not without narratives that are straightforward, right and clear to stop this business of too many in both parties running for their political lives.

It's time to get the stories right.

**By ALVARO HUERTA**

Tribune News Service



suffered at the ballot box for the past 20 years, with the result that Democrats now control the governorship, both the legislative chambers and the vast majority of statewide elected offices. Moreover, as Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., has announced her retirement, viable Republican candidates to fill this important seat are nowhere to be found. This cautionary tale is one that national GOP leaders need to learn from.


If Republicans think that they can win the White House again without the vote of key ethnic groups, they will have no one to blame but themselves.



# The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲85° ▼75°


WEDNESDAY



Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers.  
East winds 20 to 25 mph.

▲86° ▼75°


THURSDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲85° ▼75°


FRIDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲85° ▼75°

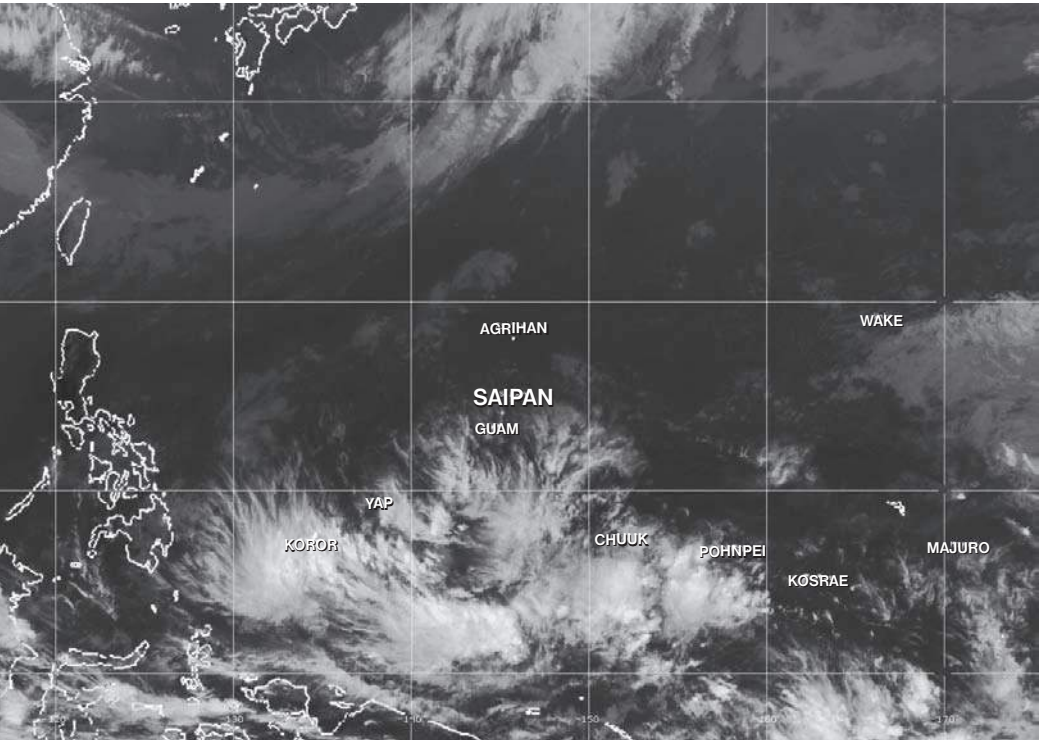
SATURDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲85° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image




PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 2N130E to a circulation centered south of Yap near 3N139E to end south of Pohnpei near EQ160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over Palau between 8N and 2N from 132E to 138E. Farther east scattered showers are found south of Yap and just south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between 9N and 1N from 138E to 159E. A cold front stretches southwestward from west of Iwo To Island at 25N140E to 22N130E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are located along and up to 230 miles northwest of this boundary. A trade-wind surge is producing cloudiness and scattered showers southeast of Wake Island between 20N and 10N east of 166E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Showers	▲83	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Cloudy	▲75	▼66
Beijing	Windy	▲40	▼23
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼62
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼60
London	Windy	▲48	▼36
Los Angeles	Showers	▲60	▼47
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼70
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼57
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼70
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲41	▼20
Osaka	Rain	▲57	▼48
Paris	Showers	▲49	▼38
Pusan	Rain	▲43	▼28
Rome	Showers	▲61	▼49
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼32
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼49
Seoul	Rain	▲43	▼24
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲50	▼45
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲47	▼27



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Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:29 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
7:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
12:56 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
6:06 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:34 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:33 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:32 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	4:28 AM	4:34A M
Wednesday	5:16 PM	5:15 AM
Thursday	6:03 PM	5:55 AM
Friday	6:49 PM	6:33 AM
Saturday	7:36 PM	7:11 AM

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DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily	OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
				UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
				UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

### STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat



## SCRATCH, WIN, AND FIGHT CANCER

## CCA fundraiser now at 4 Joeten markets, Ace Hardware stores

Since the Jan. 12 launching of *Scratch, Win and Fight Cancer* fundraiser, the Commonwealth Cancer Association, in partnership with Joeten Markets, has realized great success through the strong support of the community. The first ever "Scratch, Win, and Fight Cancer" fundraiser brought the community together in support of the CCA in raising funds for its programs and services.

*Scratch, Win and Fight Can-*

*cer* tickets, which will continue to be sold through April 12, 2015, have so far seen an overwhelming number of tickets sold through the Joeten stores. Play to win cash prizes have been realized and a lucky person recently won \$500 cash. The tickets continue to be sold at each expanded sites to include Ace Hardware stores in Gualo Rai, Susupe, and San Vicente. All proceeds from the sales of these tickets will ben-

efit the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

Joeten is a proud partner of CCA and this is its latest effort to help the non-profit organization achieve its mission.

CCA president Lauri Ogomoro thanked Joeten, noting that their "untiring support to raise funds for the CCA speaks of the outstanding partnership and commitment to the CCA effectiveness and outreach."

With every \$1 purchase, you're helping those families, friends and community members who have been touched by cancer. Please continue to Join the fight, please join Joeten Enterprises and CCA in raising funds for this much needed assistance to our community.

The CCA board of directors extends its profound gratitude to the Joeten family, friends,

and the members of the community for buying tickets. The board also recognizes and extends a heartfelt appreciation to everyone for their commitment and patronage.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is a non-profit 501(c) (3) public service charity that provides awareness, education and prevention, direct financial patient support, survivorship, patient

navigation, and advocacy regarding all cancers.

You can contact the CCA at telephone 682-0050, by email at [ccamarianas@gmail.com](mailto:ccamarianas@gmail.com) or log on to [www.ccamarianas.org](http://www.ccamarianas.org) website for more information about the CCA and its programs. Or you can contact the Joeten at telephone 234-6445 for more information about the *Scratch, Win and Fight Cancer* fundraiser. (CCA)

## FIRST FRIDAY FILMS

## Come and learn about 'Future Food' this Friday



First Friday Films is featuring two new films from the *Future Food* series this Friday! The public is invited for a free viewing of the films at 6:30pm on Friday, March 6, at American Memorial Park to learn about new things happening all over the world to feed our growing population.

Did you know that tonight there will be 219,000 new mouths to feed at the world's dinner table? That is 80 million more people over the next year, and nine billion people total on planet Earth by the year 2050! *Future Food* is a documentary series created in 2012 that asks how we are going to feed ourselves in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and looks for answers in Peru, Kenya, the United States, India, Nigeria, and China.

This Friday, we will show two episodes for free as part of our monthly documentary series. *Episode 1: Old or New*

looks at a new generation of top chefs in Lima, Peru, who are cooking with traditional ingredients and supporting traditional livelihoods. *Episode 6: Stay or Go* tries to answer the question, "Who will grow China's food as young people leave the countryside for the cities?" More episodes from this series will be shown at future FFF events.

First Friday Films is a partnership between American Memorial Park, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and the Humanities Council with support from other organizations and individuals. This particular film is sponsored by BECQ. As always, our film events are free and open to the public. This event will run approximately 70 minutes.

For more information about First Friday Films, email [fff-saipan@gmail.com](mailto:fff-saipan@gmail.com) or check out [www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com](http://www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com). (BECQ)

## Kinder registration at SVES

San Vicente Elementary School registration for school year 2015-2016 is scheduled to begin on May 26-29, 2015, for Kindergarten only, from 9am through 1pm in the school main office.

For all incoming Kindergarten students, the child must be 5 years on or before Sept. 30, 2010 as per Board of Education policy (date of birth must be between Sept. 1, 2009 and Sept. 30, 2010).

The registration requirements include a copy of birth certi-

cate; original health certificate (from public health or any private clinic); updated medical insurance (Medicaid, any government insurance or accidental insurance (from Moylan's Insurance or Marianas Insurance); map of residential location; copy power of attorney/legal guardianship (if applicable); and copy of report card or certificate of completion (from any pre-school).

Should you have any questions, contact us at 664-3981 through 84 or 237-3791. (SVES)



Left to right: Juan L. Babauta, Bo T. Palacios, CCA vice president; Darlene Macaranas, Lauri B. Ogomoro, CCA president; Isidora Pelisiman, ticket winner; Audrey Ada, and Patricia Kaipat.

## Dev't plan for Northern Islands eyed to kick off this year

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
[jayson\\_camacho@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The Northern Islands might start seeing more economic activities soon, after Mayor Jerome K. Aldan disclosed that they would start utilizing the islands' free trade zones this year.

Aldan said that plans are afoot early on for his administration to focus on value-added products such as eco-tourism and heritage tourism and the construction of a replica of an ancient Chamorro village.

Aldan planned to meet with Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio last Friday, Feb. 27, to impress upon Tenorio the compelling need to effectuate his representations before the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation dealing with the issue of agricultural homesteads.

Aldan said he will insist this year that Tenorio comply with the requirements mandated in Public Law 18-16 enacted last year that now includes the Northern Islands in the free trade zone economic diversifi-

cation policy of the CNMI.

"I will simply explain to Tenorio the mandate I have under the free trade zone law and exigencies that he is keenly aware of from my past meetings with him in his capacity as DPL secretary," he said.

Aldan said that economic activities that are envisioned in PL 18-16 or free trade zone involves high capital investment and negligible impact on the environment, or eco-friendly tourism that provides valued and meaningful training and employment opportunities for the Northern Islands.

These include socio-economic development investment priorities of the Northern Islands Mayor's Office such as specialty crop agriculture, community gardens, floriculture, cultured fishing, cultured black pearl, shell crafting, environment-friendly and low footprint tourism such as eco-

tourism, agri-tourism, etc., hot spring and black sand health, sun and wellness, aquaculture, films and filming, a scientific research laboratory for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Fish and Wildlife, the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, flight training, skydiving, cultural learning institute, study tours research and summer exploratory camps catering to students.

"This law is significant, as it is designed to boost economic diversification in the CNMI. Public Law 18-16 articulates the CNMI's preferred set of economic activities for diversification that are environment-friendly and compatible with tourism and related business, industry, and commercial activities," he said.

Aldan said these activities should be strategically located near a seaport, the airstrip (air-

port), and other suitable locations in and around Pagan Island and other islands in the Northern Islands.

"We actually started this venture last year following the enactment of Public Law 18-16, and now that I am mayor, I want to get the NI Mayor Frontier Resettlement and Redevelopment Investment 2020 moving forward in full force through the FTZ and related activities during my first year in office," Aldan said.

The idea of FTZ development came about three years ago at the first Northern Frontier Summit in 2012 hosted by the Northern Islands Mayor's Office.

Since then Aldan, as a former program manager for Northern Islands Mayor's Office, began preparatory efforts to get the project going.

"As mayor, I intend to pursue with due diligence and good faith effort the expectations required under the law to get it to work for the benefit of the people of the Northern Islands and the CNMI," he said.

**» NI to utilize free trade zones for value-added eco-tourism, heritage tourism destination**



# Time-served sentence imposed on Ryan Babauta

The federal court has imposed a time-served sentence on Ryan T. Babauta, an ex-convict on probation who was arrested in August last year for not complying with his supervision conditions.

At a revocation sentencing hearing on Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter placed Babauta on 52 months of supervised release.

Carter ordered Babauta to return to court for a status con-

ference on Aug. 25, 2015, to follow up on how he is doing with his supervised release.

Among the conditions set for Babauta's supervised release is for him to be subjected to a maximum of eight drug tests per month. He is prohibited from possessing and using any controlled substance and from drinking any alcoholic beverages.

The judge also required Babauta to participate in the home detention component of the lo-

cation-monitoring program for a period of six months.

Babauta appeared with his court-appointed counsel, Michael Dotts. Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorring represented the U.S. government.

The U.S. Probation Office sought the revocation of Babauta's supervised release.

U.S. probation officer Gregory Arriola informed the court that Babauta submitted a diluted urine sample during a random drug test on July 14, 2014.

Babauta also failed to appear for counseling sessions on July 29, Aug. 2, Aug. 5, Aug. 6, and Aug. 7, 2014.

Arriola disclosed that Babauta did not appear for random drug testing on Aug. 3, 2014.

Babauta also allegedly failed to follow the instructions of the probation officer by not submitting a monthly supervision report within the first week of August 2014 and not reporting to the U.S. Probation Office as directed.

Babauta admitted to the violations.

In January 2014, the federal court revoked Babauta's supervised release and slapped him with a six-month prison term for using illegal drugs and violating other terms of his probation.

The federal court also ordered that after completing his prison term, Babauta would be placed on supervised release for 54 months.

Babauta was among seven

prisoners who staged a 14-hour hostage drama at the Department of Corrections in Susupe in March 2009. At the time, he was serving a prison term for involuntary manslaughter for the killing of a Bangladeshi national in Chalan Kanoa.

In August 1999, the federal court slapped Babauta with 180-month prison sentence and five years of supervised release, for hostage taking and felon in possession of a firearm. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

## COP beach cleanup this Saturday

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Cleanup Brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point Beach on Saturday, March 7, 2015, at 8am.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point Beach entrance at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

The Tank Beach Cleanup was successful with 10 volunteers participating. Thanks to students from Smart Start Daycare, Saipan Southern High School/YEA Club, and other volunteers, about 320 lbs of marine debris was removed from the beach and properly disposed of.

The BECQ is looking forward to a repeat success on Saturday, so join BECQ's monthly cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. (**BECQ**)



DENNIS B. CHAN

The Marianas High School "Basic Agriculture" class, led by farmer Isidoro Cabrera, rightmost, participates in a hands-on activity inside the campus.

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Marianas High School "Basic Agriculture" class tilled the ground of their 40-by-60-foot plot inside the campus last week.

The class, led by farmer

## MHS agriculture class tills school plot

Isidoro Cabrera, teaches students the "how-to's" of agriculture. Students will sell their harvest at the upcoming Agricultural Fair in May.

They will be planting and harvesting radishes, Chinese cabbage, water spinach (*kangkong*), bell pepper, and eggplant, among many others, in

the coming weeks.

Last Friday afternoon's, Cabrera taught students about hydroponic agriculture and container gardening, and how to

set up an irrigation system.

The plot will use a nearby MHS water tank for irrigation.

In three to five weeks, Cabrera said, plants should be about waist-high.

A harvest is expected by end of March, he said, with some plants taking longer than others.

Chinese cabbage and *kangkong*, for example, would take 30 to 35 days, and eggplant would take 60 to 70 from planting to harvest.

Cabrera has plans for several field trips to the island's larger farms. One would be to Cabrera's hydroponic farm, another would be to the island's largest pineapple farm around Mt. Tapochau, or the Kagman commercial farm plot, for example.

Students with good attendance earn a credit for the class and a certificate of completion.

"It's important to know about agriculture," one student said when they were asked why they took the class. "It is important to grow crops...I want to know [how to plant], if we don't have food," she said.



## NEW AIRPORT SIGNAGE

The Tinian Mayor's Office is currently working on the signage outside the exit of the Tinian International Airport road. Tinian's community workers are seen here painting, digging, and replacing the old sign.

JAYSON CAMACHO



# Business

## Samsung ditches plastic design, adds mobile pay in new phone

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Samsung, locked in a tight race with Apple to be the world's biggest smartphone maker, has unveiled an important new phone that ditches its signature plastic design for more stylish metal and glass.

The South Korean phone

manufacturer also unveiled a premium model with a display that curves around the left and right edges so that information can be glanced at on the side. The Galaxy S6 and S6 Edge will both include technology for mobile payments, though Samsung isn't unveiling a

service to rival the iPhone's Apple Pay until this summer.

Samsung and Apple have gone back and forth as the world's top smartphone maker in recent years. Apple's iPhone 6 and 6 Plus, released last year, have helped the Cupertino, California, company catch up. Both of Apple's new phones are larger than previous versions and their size was heavily marketed, in part to appeal to customers who liked Samsung's large phones.

Now Samsung's S6 phones will have a metal frame—like the iPhone. The phones

also have a glass back, which Apple abandoned in favor of metal in recent iPhones.

Although the resolution of the phones' rear camera remains at 16 megapixels, cameras on both sides will have wider openings to let in more light and make for sharper photos. The phones also promise better focus and color accuracy—achieved in part by using the infrared capabilities on the phones' heart-rate sensor to detect lighting conditions.

Earlier Sunday, HTC announced a new HTC One smartphone that also sports a

better camera, while keeping such previously lauded elements as a metal design and polished finish. HTC Corp. also unveiled a fitness tracker, the Grip. Unlike trackers from Jawbone and Fitbit, the Grip isn't meant for couch potatoes looking to motivate themselves by counting steps. Rather, HTC is partnering with sports clothing maker Under Armour to offer features for those with active lifestyles.

The announcements come on the eve of this week's Mobile World Congress wireless show in Barcelona, Spain.

Samsung Electronics Co. said its new design took years to develop. As phones got thinner, the company inevitably ended up "with a device that's very cold and very industrial," said Hong Yeo, a senior designer at Samsung. The company's "Project Zero" team "was given the freedom to design our dream device," he said.

The new models use glass on both sides, encased in a metal frame. The software will also be simplified. Many of the icons, for instance, will be replaced with text to reduce guesswork.

## Efforts to depose IT head clearly backfiring

### YOUR OFFICE COACH

By **MARIE G. MCINTYRE**

Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics."

**Q** : About a year ago, a totally incompetent person was hired to head our IT department. "Kyle" has demonstrated time and again that he doesn't know what he's doing. Although several people have complained, our manager doesn't seem to understand the problem. When I went over her head to the president, he refused to discuss the issue.

On my last performance review, I received a lower rating because my boss said I was unwilling to assist Kyle, even though I have tried to help him see his mistakes. The whole situation has become so frustrating that I feel sick every day at work and can't stop thinking about it when I'm at home.

**Now I'm at the end of my rope and don't know what to do. Should I continue to escalate the problem or just give up?**

**A:** If you want to sacrifice your career for the sake of a better IT department, that is certainly your prerogative. So far, however, your martyrdom doesn't seem to be accomplishing much. Kyle might be a complete train wreck, but management apparently doesn't see it.

Even worse, your efforts to depose him appear to have backfired. Kyle continues to screw up without repercussions, while you are feeling sick at work, obsessing at home, displeasing your boss and getting a bad review. So who is winning this contest?

On top of that, your lowered rating indicates that management now considers you part of the problem. Although this may not seem fair, it's a clear sign that you need to change your strategy. Having provided evidence of Kyle's incompetence, you must accept the fact that you have done all you can do to influence the situation.

To prevent further career damage, just work cooperatively with Kyle and hope the higher-ups recognize his failings. If it makes you feel any better, remember that IT touches all areas of the business, so serious errors almost always surface. Therefore, the odds are good that Kyle's ineptitude will eventually lead to a disaster.

**Q: Several years ago, I had a traumatic brain injury, from which I have now fully recovered. My manager, who will be leaving soon, recently decided to share the story of my injury with his replacement. When I indicated that this seemed inappropriate, my boss apologized profusely. However, I'm still concerned that my medical history may cause the new manager to doubt my abilities. How can I keep this from happening?**

**A:** Your boss's thoughtless disclosure was totally out of line and possibly illegal. Practically speaking, however, continuing to chastise him would be counterproductive. Instead, request his assistance in reversing the damage.

For example: "I'm concerned that knowledge of my brain injury might cause the new manager to question my competence. If you could explain that I have made a complete recovery and that my work is not affected in any way, I would really appreciate it."

Your boss's reassurance should help to counteract any misunderstandings. Then, once the new manager is on board, you can decide whether to offer additional clarification or let your accomplishments speak for themselves.



The new Galaxy S6, right, and S6 Edge are displayed during a Samsung Galaxy Unpacked 2015 event on the eve of this week's Mobile World Congress wireless show in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, March 1, 2015, unveiling a new phone that ditches its signature plastic design for metal and glass.

## Ukraine's new US-born finance chief enduring baptism by fire

**KIEV, Ukraine (AP)**—Wartorn Ukraine is a long way from Wood Dale, Illinois.

But Natalie Jaresko, the country's new finance minister who was born and raised in the Chicago suburbs, says she feels just as much at home here as she takes on a daunting task: overhauling a Soviet-era economy at a time when public finances are being drained by war.

It's been a baptism of fire for the 49-year-old former banker, who only got her Ukrainian

citizenship the day she was appointed minister in December but has lived in the country for over two decades. She hopes the fact she is not part of the entrenched political elite will help as she attempts a root-and-branch reform of the economy.

"I don't see myself as a politician," she told The Associated Press at her office in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev. "I'm a technocrat minister and I don't have a political career ahead of me. I'm not running for office."

The job is as big as it is urgent.

She estimates that the war has consumed about 20 percent of the economy, taking out a region rich in industry and commodities. Corruption is endemic throughout Ukraine. Red tape and a lack of financing are hindering business. Foreign investors are wary of the geopolitical instability. Inflation is forecast to hit a staggering 26 percent this year as the hryvnia currency has fallen 70 percent since last year, when former President Viktor Yanukovich was ousted

by popular protests.

Amid all this, the government is living a hand-to-mouth existence—it must pay Russia up front for gas supplies at a time when it is quickly running out of money. Ukraine and Russia will hold more talks on the gas issue Monday.

Jaresko's first success in the job came this month when she clinched a promise for a \$40 billion four-year lifeline from the International Monetary Fund and Western nations.

## BankPacific launches new state-of-the-art ATM on Saipan

BankPacific is pleased to announce the installation and activation of their newest ATM on Saipan.

This new ATM is located in BankPacific's Liberty Plaza office in Garapan.

BankPacific's newest ATM is a Diebold Opteva 562 walk up model with security enhanced EMV Europay/MasterCard/Visa card read capabilities.

"Our new ATM features a larger 15.1 inch anti-glare LCD display," said Fred Camacho BankPacific's vice president and Saipan office manager. "It has better resolution, a covered keypad for added security and is fully ADA compliant, including text-to-speech capabilities and a Braille keypad."



It can also provide cash withdrawals for non-BankPacific customers.

Networks available through the ATM include VISA, MasterCard, Cirrus, Discover, AFFN, American Express and The Exchange Plus.

"We are excited to launch our newest ATM in Saipan,"

stated BankPacific president Philip Flores. "We're proud to state it is further evidence of our commitment to bring modern, high quality and conveniently located banking services to the people of Commonwealth.

BankPacific operates in Guam, Saipan, and Palau and is currently celebrating its 60th year of service to our island communities. (PR)



# Nation

## Congress' dysfunction not limited to Homeland Security fight

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Congress' dysfunction isn't limited to the struggle to keep a Cabinet department running without interruption.

Lawmakers couldn't finish their work last year and it's showing now. The leftover business could prove even more divisive than the dispute over rolling back President Barack Obama's immigration policies on a bill providing money for the Department of Homeland Security.

Stretches of brinkmanship are certain to consume much of the legislative calendar in 2015. One critical issue is whether to increase the nation's borrowing authority. That debate could have major repercussions for the recovering economy.

The to-do list includes forestalling a 21-percent cut in Medicare payments to physicians, preventing a cutoff of highway and transit dollars in the middle of peak construction season this summer and renewing critical parts of the Patriot Act.

There's also a debate among Republicans, the majority on Capitol Hill, about whether to renew the charter of the Export-Import Bank, which provides credit to purchasers of U.S. exports.

"We haven't even started talking about either one, (Medicare payments) or highways," said Rep. Sander Levin of Michigan, top Democrat on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. "So that shows how procrastinated all this is."

Approaching are deadlines for longer-term legislation set to expire, including the Children's Health Insurance Program.

A look at Capitol Hill's leftover agenda and expiring laws that may be renewed, with an assess-

ment of the degree of difficulty:

### MEDICARE FEES

Doctors who participate in Medicare face a 21 percent cut in their payments at the end of March. Because of a flawed formula dating to 1997, Medicare doctors are threatened with big fee cuts almost every year. Congress has since stepped in 17 times to pre-

vent the cuts but has failed to permanently fix the problem.

Lawmakers hope to resolve the issue once and for all this year. In the meantime, they plan a temporary fix that would buy six months or so. Shouldn't be too difficult.

### HIGHWAY FUNDING

Authority to spend money from

the highway trust fund expires May 31, the end of a reprieve passed last fall. The uncertainty is slowing construction in some states. A long-term fix won't be ready by then, so the most likely solution is Congress will punt again. Even doing that requires coming up with billions of dollars to fix the short-term shortfall, which won't be easy.



Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, talks with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015, as Democrats and Republicans headed to their party caucus meetings to discuss the Homeland Security funding.

### EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

On June 30, temporary authority expires for the bank. Critics say it picks winners such as Boeing Co. and General Electric and that too little of its financing benefits small business. The bank has support from Democrats and establishment Republicans but increasingly is opposed by conservatives, who note that its subsidies for foreign purchasers of exports such as jumbo jets give foreign airlines advantages over U.S. carriers. This split clearly has the bank in danger of losing its charter. Very difficult.

### DEBT LIMIT

## Los Angeles police shoot, kill man after Skid Row struggle

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Police shot and killed a man Sunday who struggled with officers on a sidewalk in the Skid Row section of downtown Los Angeles, authorities said.

The officers, who were answering a robbery call in the area at about noon, got into a struggle with the man, and tried to use a stun gun on him before shooting him, LAPD spokesman Sgt. Barry Montgomery said. He was later declared dead at a hospital.

Police did not immediately say how many officers were involved or how many shots were fired. Nor did they say whether the man was armed or identify him.

Witnesses told the Los Angeles Times that the man is known on the street in the area as "Africa," and that he had been there for four or five months.

Five or six officers were involved in the struggle, and two of them broke away to handcuff a woman who had picked up

The government's borrowing authority lapses on March 15. Filing-season tax surpluses and Treasury Department accounting maneuvers could delay the need for Congress to step in until August or later. Action is mandatory or else the government would default on its obligations.

In 2011, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, used the debt limit as leverage to pry spending cuts from President Barack Obama. Since then, Obama has refused to negotiate. Last year, Boehner had to rely on Democratic votes to pass an extension. Raising the debt limit again will prove difficult, but it must be done.

one of their dropped batons as the others wrestled the man to the ground, witnesses said.

One witness, Jose Gil, 38, told the Times he saw the man swinging at police then heard one of them shout, "he's got my gun!" before multiple shots were fired.

Dennis Horne, 29, said the man had been fighting with someone else in his tent before officers arrived.

"It's sad," Horne said. "There's no justification to take somebody's life."

Tents and cardboard shelters cover the sidewalks of Skid Row, the downtown neighborhood where an estimated 1,700 homeless people live. Many of them struggle with mental illness and addiction.

Los Angeles Police Commission President Steve Soboroff told the Times that the LAPD, the independent inspector general and the district attorney would all investigate the shooting "very, very carefully."

## Spacewalking astronauts finish extensive, tricky cable job

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)**—Spacewalking astronauts successfully completed a three-day cable job outside the International Space Station on Sunday, routing several-hundred feet of power and data lines for new crew capsules commissioned by NASA.

It was the third spacewalk in just over a week for Americans Terry Virts and Butch Wilmore, and the quickest succession of spacewalks since NASA's former shuttle days.

The advance work was needed for the manned spacecraft under development by Boeing and SpaceX. A pair of docking ports will fly up later this year, followed by the capsules themselves, with astronauts aboard, in 2017.

Once safely back inside, Virts reported a bit of water in his helmet again for the second

time in as many spacewalks. He stressed it was "not a big deal" and said there was no need to hurry out of his suit.

Virts and Wilmore installed two sets of antennas Sunday, as well as 400 feet of cable for this new communication system. They unreeled 364 feet of cable on Feb. 21 and last Wednesday.

It was complicated, hand-intensive work, yet the astronauts managed to wrap up more than an hour early Sunday, for a 5 1/2-hour spacewalk. Their three outings spanned 19 hours.

"You guys have done an outstanding job," Mission Control radioed, "even for two shuttle pilots."

Sunday's 260-mile-high action unfolded 50 years to the month of the world's first spacewalk.

Soviet Alexei Leonov floated

out into the vacuum of space on March 18, 1965, beating America's first spacewalker, Gemini 4's Edward White II, by just 2 1/2 months. Leonov is now 80; White died in the Apollo 1 fire on the launch pad in 1967.

"It's amazing ... to see how far we've come from the very first steps outside," Virts said.

On Sunday—just like Wednesday—a little water got into Virts' helmet once he was back in the air lock and the chamber was being repressurized.

Virts said it seemed to be about the same amount of water, maybe slightly more, but dried quickly. He didn't need any towels this time when his helmet came off.

"I couldn't feel it on my skin. I could just see the thin film on the visor," he told Mission Control.

## Brrr! February brought record cold, snow to Northeast

**ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)**—Hardy souls who shivered and shoveled their way through February in the Northeast now have evidence of just how brutal the weather was, with record cold in at least eight cities and record snowfall in Boston.

"We're the standout globally," said Art DeGaetano, director of the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University. "It's colder in Siberia, but we're the farthest below normal."

The climate center shows the New York cities of Buffalo, Syracuse, Binghamton and Ithaca had their coldest months ever. The average temperature was 10.9 degrees in Buffalo, beating the 1934 record of 11.4. The normal average temperature for February in Buffalo is 26.3.

The monthly average was 9.0 in Syracuse, 12.2 in Bingham-

ton and 10.2 in Ithaca. Syracuse and Ithaca each had 14 days of zero or below temperatures, a February record. The National Weather Service said Rochester also had a record-cold February with an average temperature of 12.2 degrees.

There were also February records elsewhere. Record low average temperatures for the month were set in Hartford, Connecticut, at 16.1; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania at 20.9; and Portland, Maine at 13.8. That's more than 11 degrees below normal for each city. Caribou, Maine's average February temperature of 2.5 degrees was also a record low, DeGaetano said.

Boston's 64.8 inches of snow easily beat the city's old record of 41.6 inches. If the city gets 5.6 more inches before the end of May, it'll be the snowiest winter on record, DeGaetano

said. Through Feb. 26, Boston had 102 inches of snow. Normal is 34 inches.

Providence, Rhode Island, had a February record 31.8 inches of snow, bringing the season's total to nearly 60 inches, twice the normal amount.

Total snowfall for the season is way above normal across the Northeast, according to the National Weather Service. As of Feb. 26, Worcester, Massachusetts had 108.6 inches, compared to a normal snowfall of 49.9 inches.

So what do we have to thank, or blame, for this frigid February?

"We can't point to anything specific," DeGaetano said. "It's just the way the jet stream bulged and set up. It's random, like a deal of cards. Sometimes you're dealt a royal flush, sometimes you get nothing."



# Asia

## Seoul: N. Korea test fires 2 missiles

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—North Korea on Monday fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea and warned of “merciless strikes” against its enemies as allies Seoul and Washington launched annual military drills. Pyongyang claims are preparation for a northward invasion.

North Korea regularly conducts such test firings of missiles, rockets and artillery, and they are often timed to express the country’s dissatisfaction with actions by Washington and Seoul. Monday was the start of military drills that will run until the end of April.

Early Monday morning, two missiles launched from North Korea’s west coast flew about 500 kilometers (310 miles) before landing in waters off the east coast, according to South Korea’s Defense Ministry. Spokesman Kim Min-seok called the launches an “armed protest” against the South Korea-U.S. drills and a challenge to peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The annual U.S.-South Korean military drills inevitably

lead to angry North Korean rhetoric, although the allies say they are purely defensive. The North’s rhetoric is meant to show its people that a tough leadership is confronting what its propaganda portrays as outside hostility, but analysts also believe the drills infuriate because they cost Pyongyang precious resources by forcing the country to respond with its own drills and launches.

“The only means to cope with the aggression and war by the U.S. imperialists and their followers is neither dialogue nor peace. They should be dealt with only by merciless strikes,” an unidentified spokesman for the North Korean military’s general staff said in a statement carried by state media.

He said the U.S.-South Korean drills are aimed at conquering the North’s capital, Pyongyang, and removing its leadership.

During the 2013 drills, tension rose amid North Korean rhetoric that included vows of nuclear strikes on Washington and Seoul.

The rival Koreas earlier this year floated the possibility of

holding what would be the third summit between their leaders since the countries were divided 70 years ago. But they have been at odds in recent weeks over terms, and prospects seem dim.

North Korea separately told the U.S. that it was willing to impose a temporary moratorium on its nuclear tests if Washington cancels the joint military drills with South Korea. But the U.S. rejected the overture, calling it an “implicit threat.”

North Korea last year conducted an unusually large number of missile and other weapons tests, drawing protests from South Korea. The North still proposed a set of measures that it said would lower tensions, but South Korea rebuffed them, saying the North must first take steps toward nuclear disarmament.

The Korean Peninsula remains in a technical state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. About 28,500 American soldiers are deployed in South Korea as deterrence against potential aggression from North Korea.

## Britain’s Prince William takes on diplomatic role in China

**BEIJING (AP)**—Prince William presented China’s president with a large envelope Monday containing an invitation from the queen to visit Britain this year, as he began the first official visit to mainland China by a senior British royal in a generation.

President Xi Jinping told the prince that he thanked Queen Elizabeth II for the invitation. “I look forward to meeting her majesty and other British leaders during the visit and to jointly plan out the future of Sino-British relations,” Xi said during the meeting in the Great Hall of the People, the seat of China’s legislature. “The British royal family has great influence, not just in Britain but across the world.”

The prince’s three-day trip to Beijing, Shanghai and in the southwest near the border with Myanmar is testing the prince’s

diplomatic mettle as the second in line to the throne.

He won’t be visiting Hong Kong, which Britain handed back to China in 1997. It was the scene last year of week-long pro-democracy protests, during which Beijing prevented a parliamentary committee from traveling to Hong Kong to investigate political reform there, saying it did not want Britain interfering in its internal affairs.

William told Xi and the rest of the Chinese delegation, including Yang Jiechi, the government’s senior foreign policy adviser, and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, that he was looking forward to strengthening relations between the countries.

“I’m particularly interested in the young people and seeing how the next generation develops and is aware of the world as

it is,” he added.

Earlier Monday, Prince William told a boy he might be able to make his dream of singing opera in a palace come true as he met with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

He made the comment as he toured a traditional Beijing courtyard residence dating from the 1890s that has been restored and turned into a museum with help from charities related to his father, Prince Charles: the Prince of Wales’s China Foundation and The Prince’s Foundation for Building Communities.

He spent most of his time chatting with representatives of charities helping children with hearing and visual impairments, whose parents are migrant workers or in prison, and some of the young people they work with.

a border town, in the latest example of heightened tensions over the growing influx of mainland Chinese shoppers in the city. Police officers wielded batons and used pepper spray on the crowds after the demonstration turned unruly, as demonstrators clashed with crowds of village residents opposed to the event who taunted them along the route. Police said 33 people were arrested, including a 13-year-old boy. Hundreds turned out for the latest protest to target the mainland shoppers, who have been blamed for voracious buying habits that distort the local economy.

they are uncovering more bodies, including women and children. At least four army helicopters are dropping hot food to cut-off villages, he says, the first food for many since the disaster last week. Nationwide, the death toll from avalanches and flooding rose to at least 247 people, the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority says.

### Hong Kong arrests 33 in protest against Chinese shoppers

**HONG KONG (AP)**—Hong Kong police arrested nearly three dozen people Sunday after scuffles broke out at a protest in

# World

## 30K marchers mourn Nemtsov

**MOSCOW (AP)**—For the tens of thousands bearing flowers and tying black ribbons to railings in honor of slain Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov, the solemn march through the Moscow drizzle on Sunday was a time for silence, not slogans.

The marchers occasionally broke into chants of “Russia without Putin,” or “Say no to war,” but often the only sound was the steady thwack of police helicopters overhead or the hum of police boats patrolling the shores of the Moscow River.

While the killing of Nemtsov has shaken the Russian opposition, which sees the Kremlin as responsible, it is unclear whether his death will be enough to invigorate the beleaguered movement. Despite the Ukraine conflict and Russia’s economic crisis, support for President Vladimir Putin has been above 80 percent in the past year.

Since mass anti-Putin protests brought hundreds of thousands to the streets of Moscow in 2011 and 2012, Putin has marginalized and intimidated his political opponents, jailing some, driving others into exile, and ramping up fines and potential jail time for those detained at protests.

The 55-year-old Nemtsov was among the few prominent opposition figures who refused to be cowed. But while



People with Russian national flags march in memory of opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, who was gunned down on Friday, Feb. 27, 2015 near the Kremlin, in Moscow, Russia, Sunday, March 1, 2015. AP

many at the march expressed respect for his long political career and grief at his loss, few believed that his death would spark major change in Russia because of the Kremlin’s control over national television, where a vast majority of Russians get their news.

“Maybe if 100 people were to die people would rise up, but I don’t really believe in that,” said Sergei Musakov, 22. “People are so under the influence of the (TV) box that they will believe anything that television tells them. If it tells them that terrorists from the Islamic State group came to Russia in order to blow up the fifth column, they’ll believe it.”

The Kremlin had identified Nemtsov as among the leaders

of a “fifth column,” painting him and other opposition figures as traitors in the service of a hostile West.

About 30,000 people attended the march, making it the largest opposition rally in more than a year. The demonstrators bore Russian flags and signs that read “I am not afraid” or “Propaganda kills.” At the site where Nemtsov was killed, a pile of flowers grew by the minute, as mourners tossed down bouquets of every color.

Nemtsov was gunned down shortly before midnight Friday as he walked across a bridge near the Kremlin. The killing came just hours after a radio interview in which he denounced Putin’s “mad, aggressive policy” in Ukraine.

## Activists say Islamic State releases 19 Syrian Christians

**BEIRUT (AP)**—The Islamic State group released at least 19 Christians on Sunday who were among the more than 220 people the militants took captive in northeastern Syria last week, activists and a local leader said.

The news provided a modicum of relief to a Christian Assyrian community that has been devastated by the abductions, which saw Islamic State fighters haul off entire families from a string of villages along the Khabur River in Hassakeh province. But fears remain over the fate of the hundreds still held captive.

Bashir Saedi, a senior official in the Assyrian Democratic Organization, said the 16 men and three women arrived safely Sunday at the Church of the Virgin Mary in the city of Hassakeh. He said the 19—all

of them from the village of Tal Ghoran—had traveled by bus from the Islamic State-held town of Shaddadeh south of Hassakeh.

The Assyrian Human Rights Network also reported the release, and published photographs on its Facebook page that it said were from Hassakeh showing a crowd dressed in winter coats greeting the returnees.

The photos appeared genuine and corresponded to Associated Press reporting.

It was not immediately clear why the Islamic State group freed these captives.

Saedi said all those released were around 50 years of age or older, which suggests age might have been a factor. The Assyrian Human Rights Network, meanwhile, said the captives

had been ordered released by a Shariah court after paying an unspecified amount of money levied as a tax on non-Muslims.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also said a Shariah court had ruled the captives be freed, but the reasoning behind the decision was unknown.

The fate of the more than 200 other Christian Assyrians still in the Islamic State group’s hands remains unclear. Most of them are believed to have been taken by Islamic State fighters to Shaddadeh, which is located 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of Hassakeh.

Assyrian leaders and Sunni tribal sheikhs have begun reaching out to the Islamic State group to try to negotiate the release of the captives, activists said.

## Iraq state TV: Operation to retake Tikrit begins

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—Iraq’s state TV says government forces backed by allied Shiite and Sunni fighters have begun a large-scale military operation to recapture Saddam Hussein’s hometown from the Islamic State extremist group.

Al-Iraqiya television said Monday that the forces were

attacking the city of Tikrit, backed by artillery and airstrikes by Iraqi fighter jets. It said the militants were dislodged from some areas outside the city, but gave no details.

Hours ahead of the operation, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi called on Sunni tribal

fighters to abandon the extremist group, promising them a pardon.

Tikrit, some 130 kilometers (80 miles) north of Baghdad, fell into the hands of the Islamic State group last summer along with the country’s second-largest city of Mosul and other areas in Sunni heartland.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Afghan avalanches, flooding death toll rises to near 250

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—An Afghan provincial official says that the death toll from a massive avalanche in a mountainous valley near the capital Kabul rose to 198 as bulldozers and other machinery began clearing roads and rescue teams were able to reach remote villages that have been cut off for almost a week. Najimudin Khan, deputy provincial police chief of Panjshir province, 100 kilometers (60 miles) from Kabul said Sunday that as rescue workers dig through the snow,



# Focus

**M**ANILA, Philippines (AP)—Seventy years have not dulled the memories of survivors of the monthlong Battle of Manila. The mass killings by Japanese forces, the loved ones lost and the desperation are etched in their minds, as is the elation when American forces finally rescued them in the closing months of World War II.

The U.S. liberated the Philippine capital from the Japanese, but not before Manila was destroyed and more than 100,000 civilians killed. About 16,000 Japanese soldiers and 1,000 U.S. troops also died in the fighting from Feb. 3 to March 3, 1945.

Manila was the second-most devastated city in World War II after Warsaw, Poland, said historian Ricardo Jose of the University of the Philippines. He called the city “one of the worst battlefields in the world.”

When the Japanese invaded the Philippines, then an American colony, in 1941, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander of the U.S. forces there, declared Manila an “open city” to spare it from destruction. But when the Americans returned, the Japanese decided to fight to the last man, from building to building, and burned entire city blocks.

Civilians died from malnutrition and American shelling, but mostly, historians agree, at the hands of Japanese troops.

Four survivors shared their stories with The Associated Press:

■ ■ ■  
Roderick Hall was 9 when the Japanese occupied Manila. The British boy and his family lived in a home in the Malate district, though his father was interned with thousands of foreigners at the University of Santo Tomas.

In late January 1945, before American forces closed in on the capital, the Japanese barged into the family home, searched every room and found what the raiders claimed was an illegal radio transmitter. Hall, now a business investor, said it was just a short-wave radio the family listened to for news outside Manila.

All members of the household—including Hall and his brother, his mother, his grandmother, an uncle, and aunt and the family’s helpers—were brought to Manila’s Masonic Temple.

Hall, then 12, and his brother and the house helpers were later released. They were allowed to bring food to their mother and the others for several days. Then the Japanese stopped the visits.



In this Feb. 5, 2015 photo, Joan Bennett Chapman, left, a Philippine-born American, sits beside her daughter Melanie as they attend a movie premier in Manila, Philippines. AP

## 70 years on, survivors keep memory of Battle of Manila alive

By OLIVER TEVES  
Associated Press

About 200 people were massacred at the temple, but Hall learned only recently from a war document that his mother was listed among dozens executed at Fort Santiago, a centuries-old Spanish garrison used by occupation troops to torture and kill suspected guerrillas.

For a while, Hall had hoped that his mother somehow escaped and was safe with the guerrillas.

“About two years later, I was away in school. My father wrote and said, ‘I am going to marry again.’ And that’s when I started to cry and broke down and had to admit to myself that this hope that my mother was alive somewhere was no longer the case.”

■ ■ ■  
For someone who was 4 when the Japanese began bombing raids on Ma-



In this Feb. 3, 2015 photo, British Roderick Hall gestures during an interview as he attends a commemorative event for the 70th year of the Battle for Manila at the Ayala Museum in suburban Makati, south of Manila, Philippines. AP

nila in December 1941, Juan “Johnny” Rocha remembers a lot from the war. Perhaps because, when those first bombs were falling, he was being rushed for an appendectomy—not in the operating room, but to the hospital basement, where it was safer.

Rocha, who later would become the Philippine ambassador to Spain, once saw a man hanging dead from a telephone pole, with a sign that said he was a thief. He remembers his family using huge wads of devalued Japanese war-time currency to buy basic commodities, and privately singing “God Bless America,” and “I Love My Own, My Native Land” at home.

“The most remarkable thing was whenever we passed in front of a Japanese sentry we had to all bow, and if we

didn’t bow, he would slap us or kick us or whatever,” he said.

As fighting in Manila intensified, his family decided to flee, but tragedy struck before they could. When a shell landed on a neighbor’s house, shrapnel cut through an adobe wall and sliced off the top of his mother’s head, killing her.

Rocha’s father lost 13 relatives when the Japanese herded them inside the German Club with hundreds of others, then torched them all alive, Rocha said.

Rocha saw Japanese soldiers shoot a man because he didn’t raise his hands, and a woman screaming as she was bayoneted against a tree.

“Christians are taught to forgive, but we are never taught to forget. We cannot forget,” he said. “All we need is that they recognize what they did

and apologize.”

■ ■ ■  
Joan Bennett Chapman, a Philippine-born American, remembers being so deprived at the Santo Tomas prison camp that powdered milk was a special treat. When her mother was able to give her a spoonful, she would nibble on it on the steps of the large staircase in the main building.

Chapman’s father, Roy Bennett, was the first editor-in-chief of the pre-war *Manila Daily Bulletin*. He was tortured by the Japanese before he and his family were interned.

Chapman, an 80-year-old former lawyer, said internees looked like “walking skeletons” and starvation deaths were routine. When American tanks crashed through the university gates on Feb. 3, 1945, she heard “people being hysterically happy.”

“The soldiers were out throwing candy bars down to the people, and the people who were starving were scrambling for them. It was the happiest kind of chaos you can imagine,” she said.

The Japanese camp commandant refused to surrender and was shot as he tried to reach for what was believed to be a grenade in his backpack, she said. His body was dragged to the main building, where some internees spat and urinated on it, she said.

Chapman wanted to spit on the body, too. Her father, who was abused by the occupiers for years and would be tormented by the war for the rest of his life, forbade it.

■ ■ ■  
James Litton, then 11, heard thunderous explosions the day after the Americans reached Manila. The Japanese were blowing up bridges to keep U.S. troops from advancing.

Days later, the Japanese began burning houses in the Malate district, where his family lived. Litton’s four-story home was made of concrete, so it became an emergency shelter for about 120 homeless neighbors.

Then the Japanese ordered everyone to leave. As civilians hurried toward the nearby Philippine General Hospital for shelter, a 15-year-old girl stepped on a Japanese land mine.

“After the dust had settled, all I could see was a torso, legless, without the left arm. She was moaning still but her blood was coagulating with dust,” he said. His mother lay unconscious nearby and his brother was wounded in the face.

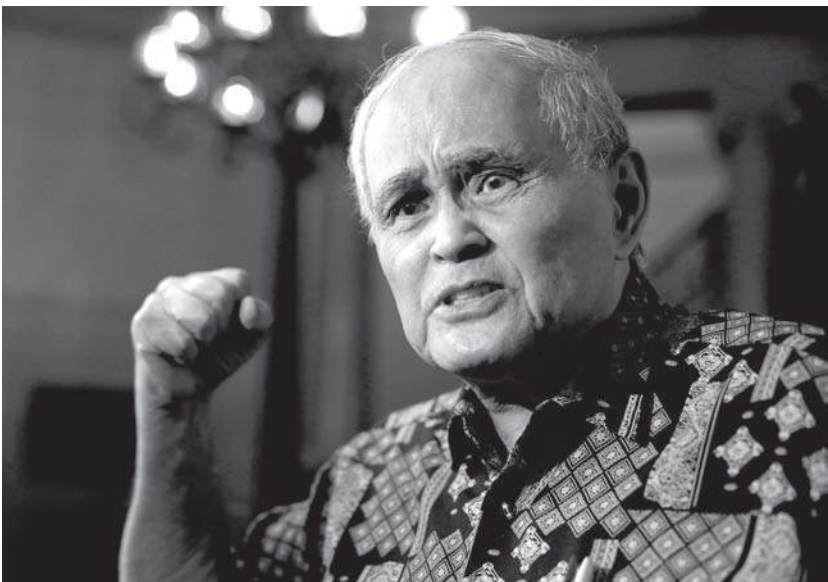
A cousin carried his mother and they ran toward the hospital. Japanese snipers were targeting people entering the main gate, so they climbed over a fence.

Finally, on Feb. 17, Americans reached the area. “I was just filled with happiness. My chest was bursting with joy realizing that we had survived. We’re alive! We’re alive!” said Litton, now 81.

As they moved out of the hospital, he saw the body of a Japanese soldier lying on the street. “What I can’t forget is when we were walking, an elderly man got an adobe stone and with all his might threw it at this dead Japanese,” and cursed, he said.

Later, as a textile businessman, Litton often visited Japan.

“I never met a more hospitable, a more cultured, a more accommodating people,” he said. “How could a people like this have produced an army as barbaric as the one that came here and Nanking? ... Nobody has yet explained that to me.”



In this Feb. 5, 2015 photo, James Litton gestures during an interview in Manila, Philippines. AP



# Overdrive

## Automakers pick company to investigate Takata air bags

By BRENT SNAVELY  
DETROIT FREE PRESS

**DETROIT**—A group of 10 automakers said Thursday they have selected engineering firm Orbital ATK to test air bag inflators made by Takata that are tied to recalls involving millions of cars.

The automakers also said they have selected former National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Acting Administrator David Kelly to manage and coordinate the testing. Kelly is currently a principal and CEO of Storm King Strategies, a strategic affairs and advocacy firm in Washington, D.C.

The automakers include BMW, FCA US LLC, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Subaru and Toyota.

The automakers, led by Toyota, have been working on a way to conduct independent testing on Takata air bags since late last year.

The joint statement issued by the manufacturers says they are launching an industry-wide testing initiative designed to help supplement air bag testing that Takata is doing.

Since 2008, the 10 automakers have had to recall about 17 million vehicles with Takata air bags that can rupture when they de-

ploy, releasing fragments that can kill or seriously injure occupants.

In 2014 five automakers—BMW, Chrysler, Ford, Honda and Mazda—launched national recalls at the urging of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for defective driver-side air bags.

At least five people have died in the U.S. from accidents after Takata air bags ruptured and deployed with excessive force. Neither Takata, the automakers to which it sold air bags or NHTSA has been able to definitively determine the cause of the ruptures.

“Orbital ATK is one of the world’s leading engineering firms, and we are confident that their extensive expertise will help speed and advance the ongoing technical investigation of Takata airbag inflators,” the automakers said in their statement.

Charlie Precourt, vice president and general manager of Orbital ATK’s Propulsion Systems Division, said the Dulles, Va.-based firm has more than 60 years of experience in energetic materials, propulsion technology and failure analyses on energetic systems.

“We look forward to providing a detailed technical analysis in support of enhanced public

safety,” Precourt said.

Earlier this week, federal safety regulators ordered Takata to preserve all air bag inflators removed through the recall process as evidence for an investi-

gation and lawsuits.

The order also ensures that NHTSA has access to all data from the testing of those removed inflators.

“We have worked closely

with NHTSA to reach a constructive solution on the preservation order,” Takata said in a statement earlier this week. “We believe the outcome is consistent with our commitment to

the safety of the driving public. Determining the root cause of the inflator issues has been, and remains, our top priority, and we will fully support NHTSA’s engineering analysis.”

### UNDER THE HOOD

By BRAD BERGHOLDT  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**Q: I have a 2001 Chevrolet Suburban 1500 that all of a sudden lost brake power. I came to a stop sign, and the brake pedal went half way down. I was able to pump the brakes and build up pressure, but at subsequent stops, the pedal went to the floor. There was a smell of burned brake fluid, but no fluid was seen under the hood nor on the ground after the car was parked. I had it towed to the shop the next day. The brakes were tested and noted to be fine. The reservoir was full and did not require any additional fluid. What could cause this?—Kenneth Low**

**A:** Wow. This is a creepy occurrence! I’m at a loss to explain the odor you mentioned, but the sinking pedal rings clear. In a follow-up message you indicated the brakes were

## Mysteriously sinking brake pedal easily fixed

not hot. The most likely cause of a sinking pedal with no external leakage is a faulty brake master cylinder that’s leaking internally. Were the brakes hot we might consider boiling fluid due to moisture contamination or friction material gassing.

Try pressing and holding the pedal (one time, continuously, engine not running—the hard pedal is easier to evaluate) and see if the pedal slowly sinks to the floor. Repeat as needed, pressing softer or harder, and perhaps with the engine running to tempt a symptom reoccurrence. If the pedal sinks, this confirms a faulty master cylinder. Another possibility is crud at the bottom of the fluid reservoir is preventing consistent take-up of fluid by the cylinder. Perhaps the odor was the result of a minor oil or coolant leak? Fortunately the master cylinder is a fairly inexpensive and eas-

ily renewed component.

**Q: My 2002 Mustang has begun to do some strange things when I start it. It will growl like it doesn’t want to start and the radio will begin playing loudly and the clock resets to noon. What could cause this electrical problem?—Pat Yanez**

**A:** It sounds like your battery may be failing or is becoming discharged because of either a charging system fault or a parasitic drain. The radio and clock are resetting due to low system voltage as you crank the engine. Dirty battery terminals are another possibility that could cause these symptoms. Testing a battery can be done in two ways. One is a load test. The fully charged battery is subjected to a very strong load for 15 seconds, checking to see if it holds acceptable voltage. A more

techie test is cell conductance, which has become the more common method due to high accuracy. Whether the battery passes muster or not it’s still a good idea to check for proper charging system performance and the possibility of a key-off parasitic drain. Examples of a drain are the glove box or trunk light remaining on or a body control module failing to fall asleep. An easy test for dirty battery terminals is to voltage drop test across each cable clamp and its battery post as the engine is cranked. More than a tiny difference between the two indicates a faulty connection. These tests are all quick to perform and ensure a single trip to the shop will be all that’s needed.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at [under-the-hood\(at\)earthlink.net](mailto:under-the-hood(at)earthlink.net); he cannot make personal replies.

### Message of Appreciation

*We are sincerely grateful for your prayers, generosity and contributions during this difficult time for our family.*

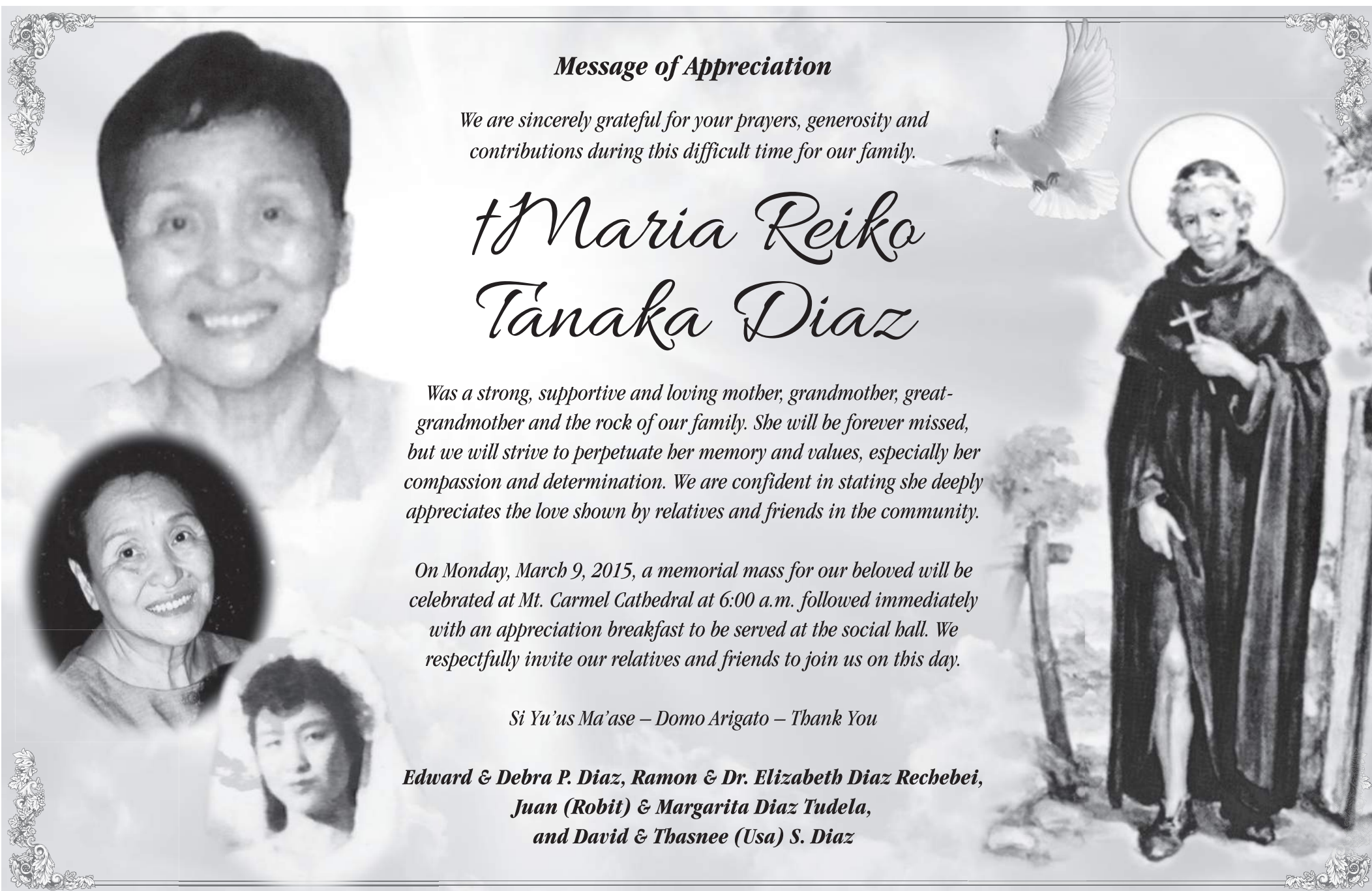
*† Maria Reiko Tanaka Diaz*

*Was a strong, supportive and loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and the rock of our family. She will be forever missed, but we will strive to perpetuate her memory and values, especially her compassion and determination. We are confident in stating she deeply appreciates the love shown by relatives and friends in the community.*

*On Monday, March 9, 2015, a memorial mass for our beloved will be celebrated at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m. followed immediately with an appreciation breakfast to be served at the social hall. We respectfully invite our relatives and friends to join us on this day.*

*Si Yu’us Ma’ase – Domo Arigato – Thank You*

**Edward & Debra P. Diaz, Ramon & Dr. Elizabeth Diaz Rechebei, Juan (Robit) & Margarita Diaz Tudela, and David & Thasnee (Usa) S. Diaz**





## Life &amp; Style

## Debate rages over color of dress photographed in rare light

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's the dress that's beating the Internet black and blue. Or should that be gold and white?

Friends and co-workers worldwide are debating the true hues of a royal blue dress with black lace that, to many an eye, transforms in one photograph into gold and white. Experts are calling the photo a one-in-a-million shot that perfectly captures how people's brains perceive color and process contrast in dramatically different ways.

"This photo provides the best test I've ever seen for how the process of color correction works in the brain," said Daniel Hardiman-McCartney, the clinical adviser to Britain's College of Optometrists. "I've never seen a photo like before where so many people look at the same photo and see two sets of such dramatically different colors."

The photo, taken earlier this month before a wedding on the remote Scottish island of Colonsay, also illustrates the dynamics of a perfect social-media storm. Guests at the wedding could not understand why, in one photo of the dress being worn by the mother of the bride, the clearly blue and black-striped garment transformed into gold and white. But only in that single photo, and only for around half of the viewers.

The debate spread from the wedding to the Internet, initially from friend to perplexed friend on Facebook.

One such wedding guest, musician and singer Caitlin

McNeill, posted the photo Thursday night to her Tumblr account with the question: "Guys please help me. Is this dress white and gold, or blue and black? Me and my friends can't agree and we are freaking the (expletive) out." She's consistently seen gold.

One of her friends, Alana MacInnes, saw gold and white for the first hour, then black and blue.

Buzzfeed sensed clickbait heaven and, amid its own news-room argument, was among the first to call McNeill. It posted more than a half-dozen stories on the image and the tsunami of reaction.

On Twitter, #TheDress and variants surged to the top of trending lists globally within hours.

The entertainment elite then chimed in.

Taylor Swift saw the dress was "obviously" blue and black. "What's the matter with u guys, it's white and gold," countered Julianne Moore. Kim Kardashian, never one to miss a trending topic, reported she was seeing gold but to husband Kanye West, it was solidly black and blue. "Who is color blind?" Kardashian asked the twitterati.

The answer, says Hardiman-McCartney, is that every viewer seeing either set of colors is right.

He says the exceptional bar-



code style of the dress, combined with the strongly yellow-toned backlighting in the one photo, provides the brain a rare chance to "choose" which of the dress' two primary colors should be seen in detail.

Those who subconsciously seek detail in the many horizontal black lines convert them to a golden hue, so the blue disappears into a blown-out white, he said.

Others whose brains focus on the blue part of the dress see the photo as the black-and-blue reality.

"There's no correct way to perceive this photograph. It sits

## Madonna: Hit my head, got whiplash

LONDON (AP)—Madonna says she hit her head and suffered whiplash when she was yanked backward down some steps while performing live at the Brit Awards.

The dramatic tumble occurred Wednesday as the 56-year-old queen of pop sang "Living For Love."

Madonna's dancers tugged at her flowing Armani cape, but instead of coming loose it dragged the singer down three

steps. Madonna said the cape had been tied too tightly at the neck "and my two lovely Japanese dancers basically strangled me off the stage."

"I had a little bit of a whiplash and I smacked the back of my head," Madonna told Britain's "Jonathan Ross Show."

"So there was a man standing over me with a flashlight until about 3 a.m., making sure I was still conscious."

Extracts from the interview

were released Friday. It will be broadcast Saturday.

The surprising tumble has been nicknamed "Cape Fear"—but Giorgio Armani said the wardrobe malfunction wasn't his fault.

"Madonna, as we know, is very difficult," the designer said with a smile backstage after his Emporio Armani show in Milan. "This cape had a hook and she wanted a tie, and she wasn't able to open it with her hands.

## Johansson: Nothing 'creepy or inappropriate' about Travolta

Scarlett Johansson defended John Travolta on Thursday, calling the actor "a class act" and denouncing the image of the two on the Academy Awards red carpet as "an unfortunate still-frame" that doesn't reflect a "totally sweet and totally welcome" encounter.

In an exclusive statement to The Associated Press, Johansson said "there is nothing strange, creepy or inappropriate about John Travolta." Travolta greeted

Johansson at Sunday's Oscars with a kiss and his arm around her waist. The photo has since been turned into an Internet meme, adding to an impression furthered by Travolta's touching of Idina Menzel's face while presenting at the Los Angeles ceremony.

"The image that is circulating is an unfortunate still-frame from a live-action encounter that was very sweet and totally welcome," said Johansson.

"That still photo does not reflect what preceded and followed if you see the moment live. Yet another way we are misguided, misinformed and sensationalized by the 24-hour news cycle. I haven't seen John in some years and it is always a pleasure to be greeted by him."

Johansson and Travolta co-starred in the 2004 drama "A Love Song for Bobby Long." (AP)

right on the cusp, or balance, of how we perceive the color of a subject versus the surrounding area," he said. "And this color consistency illusion that we're experiencing doesn't mean there's anything wrong with your eyes. It just shows how your brain chooses to see the image, to process this luminescence confusion."

The photo produced a deluge of media calls Friday to the Tumblr reporter, 21-year-old McNeill, who calls the seemingly endless phone calls "more than I've received in the entirety of the rest of my life combined." She says the photographer, who is also the mother of the bride, never wanted the publicity.

There's one clear winner: English dress retailer Roman Originals, which has reported a million hits on its sales site in the first 18 hours following the

AP  
Shop manager Debbie Armstrong adjusts a two tone dress in a window display of a shop in Lichfield, England, Friday Feb. 27, 2015.

photo's worldwide distribution.

"I can officially say that this dress is royal blue with black lace trimming," said Michele Bastock, design director at Roman Originals.

She said staff members had no idea that the dress, when shot in that singularly peculiar light, might be perceived in a totally different color scheme. Not until Friday anyway, when they arrived at work to field hundreds of emails, calls and social media posts. They, too, split almost 50-50 on the photo's true colors.

All agreed, however, the dress for the Birmingham, England-based retailer was likely to become their greatest-ever seller. The chain's website Friday headlined its product as "#TheDress now back in stock—debate now."

"Straightaway we went to the computers and had a look. And some members of the team saw ivory and gold. I see a royal blue all the time," she said. "It's an enigma ... but we are grateful."

## Will Smith's 'Focus' tops box office with \$19.1 million

NEW YORK (AP)—Will Smith's con-man caper "Focus" disrobed "Fifty Shades of Grey" at the box office, but the film's modest \$19.1 million opening still left questions about the drawing power of the once unstoppable star.

According to studio estimates Sunday, Warner Bros.' "Focus" easily topped all competitors on a weekend with little competition at North American multiplexes. In second place was the Colin Firth spy thriller "Kingsman: The Secret Service," which made \$11.8 million in its third week of release.

"Focus," written and directed by the "Crazy, Stupid, Love" duo Glenn Ficarra and John Requa, is Smith's first film since 2013's "After Earth," the sci-fi flop in which he co-starred with his son, Jaden.

Smith has been frank about the sting of that film's box-office performance. "I can't allow the box-office success, or lack thereof, to determine my self-image," he said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

But "Focus," made for about \$50 million and co-starring Margot Robbie of "The Wolf of Wall Street," was never intended to

umphs in "Independence Day."

Nevertheless, there aren't many stars who could do better with a drama in late February. And "Focus" should play well internationally, where Smith's popularity remains strong.

"This still goes on his balance sheet as a number one debut," said Paul Degarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office data firm Rentrak. "He can still draw an audience, particularly with a film that's R-rated and not aimed at the young crowd."

Some of last Sunday's Oscar winners saw slight bumps at the box office.

1. **"Focus,"** \$19.1 million (\$12.2 million international).
2. **"Kingsman: The Secret Service,"** \$11.8 million (\$25.8 million international).
3. **"The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water,"** \$11.2 million (\$14.2 million international).
4. **"Fifty Shades of Grey,"** \$10.9 million (\$36 million international).
5. **"The Lazarus Effect,"** \$10.6 million.
6. **"McFarland, USA,"** \$7.8 million.
7. **"American Sniper,"** \$7.7 million (\$19.5 million international).
8. **"The DUFF,"** \$7.2 million.
9. **"Still Alice,"** \$2.7 million.
10. **"Hot Tub Time Machine 2,"** \$2.4 million.

After two weeks atop the box office, "Fifty Shades of Grey" continued its steep slide, landing in fourth with an estimated \$10.9 million for Universal Pictures. "Fifty Shades," which has made \$486.2 million globally, fell just behind Paramount's "The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water," which earned \$11.2 million in its fourth week.

The weekend's only other new wide release, Relativity's horror film "The Lazarus Effect," opened in fifth place with \$10.6 million.

But the weekend was largely seen, fairly or not, as a referendum on Smith's star power.

be a summer-sized blockbuster. It had been predicted to make around \$21 million.

"This is a mid-budgeted film with a result that matches," said Jeff Goldstein, head of distribution for Warner Bros., who added that winter storms accounted for a drop of \$1-2 million. "There's no question we got hammered because of inclement weather in the South and the Midwest."

The R-rated "Focus," overwhelmingly appealed to adults, with 88 percent of its audience older than 25—not a good sign for Smith's appeal to a new generation of moviegoers who weren't around for his tri-

Best-picture winner "Birdman (Or the Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)" added some 800 screens to bring in \$2 million over the weekend, pushing its total past \$40 million. "Still Alice," for which Julianne Moore won best actress, added 553 screens and earned \$2.7 million. It's now made \$12 million for Sony Pictures Classics.

"American Sniper," far and away the biggest box-office hit of the best-picture nominees, was also easily the top post-Oscars draw. It added another \$7.7 million, to bring its cumulative domestic gross to \$331.1 million.



**SHOWBIZ TIDBITS****Biopic of martial arts legend Bruce Lee springs into action**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Legendary martial arts star Bruce Lee is getting the official biopic treatment, daughter Shannon Lee announced Friday. Despite his untimely death in 1973 at age 32, Bruce Lee helped to create and popularize a genre that still endures and influences today with roles in films including “Fist of Fury,” “Way of the Dragon,” and “Enter the Dragon.” Bruce Lee Entertainment will produce the project in collaboration with Lawrence Grey (“Hope Springs”) and Janet Yang (“The Joy Luck Club”). In the statement, Shannon Lee said the film will explore her father’s writings, art and philosophies in addition to his martial arts stardom. Neither a star nor a director has been set for the film. The 1993 biopic “Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story” was based on widow Linda Lee Cadwell’s book.

**Disabled punk rockers to compete in Eurovision Song Contest**

**HELSINKI (AP)**—Four punk rockers with learning disabilities will compete for Finland in the Eurovision Song Contest semifinal after winning the Nordic country’s national qualifying contest. The group Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät, or PKN, was formed in 2009 at a workshop organized by an association that provides support for people with disabilities. The members have diagnoses such as autism and Down syndrome. They will compete with a growling protest song called “I Always Have To” that is only 90 seconds long. PKN won more than 36 percent of the votes in the national competition late Saturday. Bass player Sami Helle, choking back tears after winning, said he hoped that “people really are ready for the punk music of four disabled men.” Finland won the 2006 Eurovision

Song Contest with monster rockers Lordi.

**Rediscovered Picasso to go on display in Paris museum**

**PARIS (AP)**—The Pompidou Centre in Paris hopes to display a long-lost Picasso painting in May, now that it has been recovered by U.S. customs authorities. The 1911 cubist painting “The Hairdresser,” worth millions of dollars, was reported missing from a Pompidou store-room in 2001. It was smuggled into the U.S. in December from Belgium. Pompidou director Alain Seban said the discovery comes as a “true comfort” at a time when the cultural world is reeling from an Islamic State video showing the destruction of statues in Iraq. Seban said in a statement Friday that he hopes the work can be exhibited again publicly in May. U.S. and French authorities have not announced any arrests in the case.

**15 artworks stolen from Chinese museum south of Paris**

**PARIS (AP)**—French cultural officials say 15 pieces of art have been stolen from a Chinese museum south of Paris, including a replica crown of the King of Siam given to France’s emperor in the mid-19th century. The Culture Ministry says the break-in before dawn Sunday at the Chinese Museum at Fontainebleau Castle was over in less than seven minutes. Police are investigating. Castle spokesman Alexis de Kermel said he had no estimation of the objects’ value. He called them “priceless” and the master works of the museum. The ministry said the stolen objects were assembled by Empress Eugenie, the wife of French Emperor Napoleon III, for her Chinese museum in 1863. The crown was donated by the ambassadors of Siam, now Thailand, during their official visit to France two years earlier.

**World’s biggest private Harry Potter collection on display**

**MEXICO CITY (AP)**—A young Mexican’s fascination with Harry Potter has grown into the world’s biggest private collection of toys, books, clothes and other items related to author J.K. Rowling’s fantasy

hero. Now, other fans have a chance to see it all.

The collection belonging to real estate lawyer Menahem Asher Silva Vargas has been certified by Guinness Awards as the largest anywhere. And

it is on display at the Mexican Museum of Antique Toys in Mexico City.

Silva Vargas started collecting Harry Potter items 15 years ago, when he was 12. He started with toys, then branched out to

all sorts of things, from scarves to soda cans from Japan and Chinese language editions of Rowling’s books.

He has 3,097 items in all. The exhibit formally opens Saturday.

**Lady Gaga, Vince Vaughn take charity polar plunge in Chicago**

**CHICAGO (AP)**—Lady Gaga and Vince Vaughn plunged into the icy waters of Chicago’s

Lake Michigan at a fundraiser for the Special Olympics.

Special Olympics Chicago



Pop star Lady Gaga, top, gets a piggy back ride from her fiancée, Taylor Kinney, as they and members of the “Chicago Fire” cast take part in the Chicago Polar Plunge at North Avenue Beach on Sunday, March 1, 2015 in Chicago.

**Johansson: Nothing ‘creepy or inappropriate’ about Travolta**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scarlett Johansson defended John Travolta on Thursday, calling the actor “a class act” and denouncing the image of the two on the Academy Awards red carpet as “an unfortunate still-frame” that doesn’t reflect a “totally sweet and totally welcome” encounter.

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“The image that is circulating is an unfortunate still-frame from a live-action encounter that was very sweet and totally welcome,” said Johansson. “That still photo does not reflect what preceded and followed if you see the moment live. Yet another way we are misguided, misinformed and sensationalized by the 24-hour news cycle. I haven’t seen John in some years and it is always a pleasure to be greeted by him.”

President Casey Hogan said Sunday that Lady Gaga made the plunge with more than 4,500 other participants. Hogan says the singer’s appearance was “a very nice surprise.”

Lady Gaga recently announced her engagement to “Chicago Fire” actor Taylor Kinney. Photos show her and a bare-chested Kinney going into the water together.

Vaughn also made the plunge. The native of the Chi-

cago suburb Lake Forest was dressed in a Chicago Blackhawks jersey and jeans. The actor went in up to his knees, then eased himself down backward in the water.

Last year, comedian Jimmy Fallon jumped in wearing a suit and tie, and helped raise more than \$1 million.

The air temperature was a frigid 20 degrees at the time of the plunge, according to the National Weather Service.

**Bruce Willis laments sudden end to action-thriller ‘Wake’**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Bruce Willis is not saying “Yippie-ki-yay” about the cancellation of his latest film.

A spokesman for Willis told The Associated Press Friday that production of “Wake” was suddenly halted this week when financing fell through, and the actor is concerned that crew members who joined him “in good faith” are left jobless.

Publicist Paul Bloch said the company responsible for financing the film didn’t deliver the promised funds, so production of the action-thriller was indefinitely suspended. Shooting began earlier this month in Cleveland.

Benaroya Pictures did not return calls and emails seeking comment Friday.

“Wake” was also to star Ben Kingsley and Ellen Burstyn.

**Kanye West tweets apology to Beck for Grammys disruption**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Kanye West is saying he’s sorry to Beck on Twitter.

The incendiary 37-year-old hip-hop artist took to the social media site Thursday to publicly apologize to the 44-year-old musician who won four trophies at the Grammys earlier this month.

He also says he’s sorry for remarks he made about 29-year-old singer-producer Bruno Mars. It appeared West was at-

tempting to steal the moment from Beck when he briefly jumped on stage after Beck won album of the year at the 57th annual Grammy Awards. He quickly sat back down but later slammed the recording academy for not honoring Beyonce with the award.

West infamously interrupted Taylor Swift when she won the award for best female video at the MTV Video Music Awards in 2009.

**Wedding invitations don’t need to include everyone at work**

**DEAR ABBY:** I teach at a fairly small school. My grade-level teaching team consists of five teachers who work closely together.

During the last school year, one of my team members got engaged. This year, we’ve had a change of staff and now have a new member on our team. My colleague has not, and does not, plan to invite this new member to her wedding, although the rest of us are invited. The save-the-dates and shower invitations have all been hand-delivered at school, making it awkward for the person who has not been invited.

I feel it wasn’t appropriate to include all but one of the team simply because she is new to the group. Am I correct in feeling that my colleague did not handle this appropriately?

FRUSTRATED IN THE FIRST GRADE

**DEAR FRUSTRATED:** A wedding is not a children’s birthday party to which all the children must be invited if the invitations are handed out at school. While it would have been more diplomatic if the bride had mailed or emailed the invitations to her teammates, she was in no way obligated to invite someone with whom she hadn’t worked.

**DEAR ABBY:** How do you handle providing truthful advice to someone with sensitive feelings? My sister “Ella” is actively dat-

ing and doesn’t seem to handle the rejection well. This leads her to ask a number of questions she wants me to be truthful about, yet when I answer honestly, she gets mad and sometimes starts to cry.

Now when Ella asks my opinion, I either tell her half-truths or avoid the situation altogether. I’m not mean when I say what I think, but I think she only wants to hear what she wants. How do I answer her questions without hurting her feelings yet be truthful?

TONGUE-TIED IN OHIO

**DEAR TONGUE-TIED:** You don’t. Instead, you suggest that Ella seek information from someone “more qualified”—a psychologist. Because she has had one failed relationship after another, it would benefit her to talk to a therapist so she won’t keep repeating the same mistakes she’s making. Your sister may be attracted to the wrong kind of men, or so needy she chases men away. She may be more receptive to hearing what she needs to from a therapist than from you.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a man living with me as a boarder, paying weekly rent. He’s a friend as well, but not a close one.

I’m at a loss as to how to tell him he can’t use my bath towels, washcloth, bar soap, toothpaste or hairbrush. I’m tempted to tape a list on the bathroom mirror saying, “Please do not use the following,” then list the items I feel are too personal to share. I can’t

**DEAR ABBY**

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



imagine how someone would think it’s OK to use someone else’s personal things.

GROSSED-OUT GUY IN THE SOUTH

**DEAR GROSSED OUT:** The thing about silence is that it implies consent. Obviously, your boarder knows or cares nothing about boundaries. If you don’t have the courage to tell him face-to-face that certain things are off-limits and what they are, then by all means tape a large sign to the bathroom mirror.

To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.



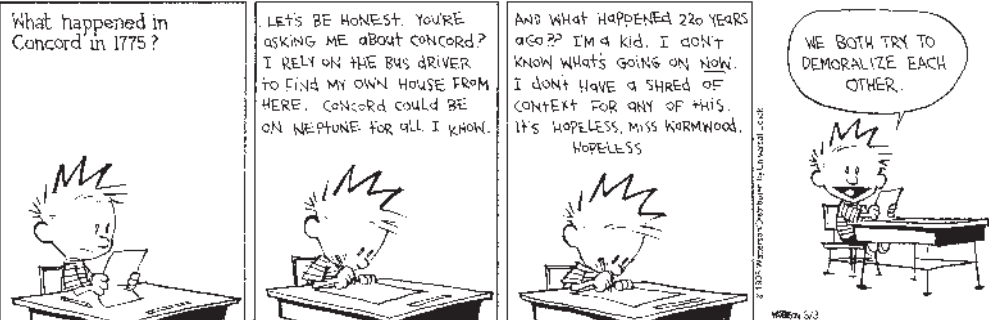
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Coffin stand
  - 5 Mayberry abbr.
  - 8 Rams fans?
  - 12 Run easily
  - 13 Barcelona bravo
  - 14 Speck
  - 15 Ear-related
  - 16 Resolute-ness
  - 18 Tasks as yet undone
  - 20 Speed detector
  - 21 So five minutes ago
  - 22 Supporting
  - 23 Word on the street?
  - 26 Spoke spitefully about
  - 30 "the ramparts ..."
  - 31 Cowboy nickname
  - 32 Blond shade
  - 33 Exca-vating machine
- DOWN**
- 1 Amor-phous sci-fi villain
  - 2 Tittle
  - 3 Grand story
  - 4 Believe
  - 5 Automa-tion
  - 6 Banner
  - 7 Xmas time
  - 8 Set off on a journey
  - 9 Lumber
  - 10 Sicilian spouter
  - 11 Palm reader, e.g.
  - 17 McDon-ald's founder Ray
  - 19 Drag wearily
  - 22 Office trans-mission
  - 23 Blubber
  - 24 Meadow
  - 25 Curved line
  - 26 Spelling contest
  - 27 Emeril's shout
  - 28 Doctrine
  - 29 Com-mand-ment
  - 31 Play-thing
  - 34 Some military garb
  - 35 Difficult
  - 36 Spasm
  - 37 Mainte-nance
  - 39 Bolivian city
  - 40 Sleeping
  - 41 Indo-nesian island
  - 42 Rever-berate
  - 43 Tiresome one
  - 44 "Clair de ..."
  - 45 Rainbow
  - 46 Commo-tion
  - 48 Ump

Solution time: 22 mins.

STUD	VI	C	O	V	A	L
LUKE	EVE	PER	J			
ABET	HEL	LEN	IC			
WASABI	LORD	Y				
CECA	MAE					
MICHELLE	STAG					
BAR	PER	YS	TRA			
ANEW	SHELL	LA	CS			
DOH	ARFI					
SIIR	JJP	AWAKEN				
NUTS	SHELL	VA	E			
CBOL	AIL	ALSO				
BERN	RES	SEEN				

Yesterday's answer 3-3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16			17			
18				19			20			
			21			22				
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30				31				32		
33			34	35			36	37		
			38				39			
40	41	42			43			44	45	46
47					48			49		
50					51			52		
53					54			55		

**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jessica Biel, 33; Julie Bowen, 45; Tone Loc, 49; Jackie Joyner-Kersey, 53.

**Happy Birthday:** Keep your emotions in check and avoid overindulgence. Sticking to the facts and not taking on too much will be your best bet if you want to accomplish your goals. Having unrealistic expectations will be what leads you astray. Discipline, determination and hard work will win out in the end and lead to your success. Your numbers are 7, 12, 16, 28, 34, 43, 47.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Muster a to-do list and don't stop until it's been completed. The satisfaction and confidence you get from taking care of your responsibilities will give way to having fun with someone whose company you enjoy. Romance is encouraged. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Refrain from bringing up emotional matters until you feel you can handle the consequences. Focus more on work and the contributions you can make that will make a difference to your peers, community and future prospects. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Make changes because you want to, not because someone else pushes you. You have a much better handle on what you want to see happen than an onlooker has. A love relationship will improve if you discuss and plan to do more together. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Expect to meet with opposition. You may not like change, but it will bring about a favorable

new lifestyle. Don't fight the inevitable. Make do with what you are given. Accept and move forward and you will get positive results. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Step up and take on a position of leadership. Do your own thing, put your plans into motion and leave time for a little romantic fun. Short trips will lead to a bargain or a reconnection with an old friend. ★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Money, health and legal matters will be prominent, so do your best to take care of your responsibilities at home. Personal papers are best dealt with sooner rather than later. Don't get angry, get moving. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Size up your situation and your current position. Partnerships are bountiful and will help you increase your momentum as well as your reputation and confidence. Don't let someone hold you back. Rid yourself of dead weight and move forward. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Explore different ways of doing things. A tweak here and there to the way you've been conducting your life will help you appreciate what you have. An offer is heading your way and must be taken seriously. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Tie up loose ends and make plans to travel or get involved in a home improvement project that will help stabilize your future. Realistic plans coupled with hands-on work will ensure that you are successful. Love is highlighted. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Avoid travel, communication or being around unpredictable people. Rely on past experiences and your intuition to help you make good decisions now. An exaggerated joint venture will entice you. You are best to take precautions and rely on facts, not hype. ★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You've got the right mindset and moves to make your dreams come true. A moneymaking opportunity is within reach, along with a partnership that can help you expand. Present, promote and enjoy the recognition you receive. Romance is encouraged. ★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** A colleague, superior or peer will have a hidden agenda. Take your time and make sure whatever you get involved in is to everyone's benefit. Question motives as well as how realistic a project or joint venture is. Be smart, not sorry. ★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are a humanitarian and a go-getter. You are passionate, aggressive and intuitive. Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](http://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			8	1			5
	5	9		6		3	
	2		7				
4				7		5	9
		6			2		
2	3		4				7
				3		8	
	9		5		4	7	
1			7	2			

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	7	3	1	4	2	5	6	8
4	6	8	9	5	7	2	1	3
5	2	1	8	3	6	4	9	7
6	4	5	2	7	9	8	3	1
1	3	9	5	8	4	6	7	2
2	8	7	6	1	3	9	4	5
3	5	4	7	9	8	1	2	6
8	9	2	3	6	1	7	5	4
7	1	6	4	2	5	3	8	9

Difficulty Level ★ 3/02

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**BEGINNINGS** Solution: 10 letters

D	A	E	B	E	V	O	L	P	R	E	F	A	C	E
L	L	X	M	A	C	H	C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N
R	P	O	S	I	S	E	N	E	G	I	L	I	F	E
O	H	R	H	P	T	I	Y	L	I	M	A	F	L	D
W	A	D	R	S	B	U	S	U	T	O	O	R	T	E
E	B	I	D	E	E	S	B	D	Y	K	I	S	V	C
U	N	U	S	O	U	R	C	E	C	L	A	I	R	N
G	A	M	D	T	N	P	H	I	D	F	R	T	C	A
O	N	W	A	D	O	S	K	T	F	D	N	A	Ⓐ	S
L	C	T	F	T	I	C	E	O	A	E	U	A	Ⓔ	S
O	E	R	R	I	O	N	T	G	S	H	R	Ⓓ	I	
R	S	A	E	T	R	S	G	R	E	C	K	I	Ⓐ	
A	P	T	E	S	R	A	S	E	T	N	E	C	S	A
S	R	H	H	L	O	M	T	L	E	N	R	E	K	E
O	Y	R	B	M	E	C	Y	R	U	T	N	E	C	W

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Afresh, Alpha, Ancestry, Anew, Arise, Basis, Blastoff, Budding, Cause, Century, Core, Creation, Dawn, Debut, Descent, Drive, Early, Embryo, Emergent, Exordium, Family, Fast, First, Genesis, Heart, Home, Idea, Kernel, Kickoff, Life, Love, Naissance, Nascent, Onset, Preface, Prelude, Prologue, Root, Seed, Source, Spring, Start, Stock, Task, Threshold, Top, World  
**Yesterday's Answer: Arizona**  
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# Harden's 33 points leads Rockets over Cavs 105-103 in OT



**HOUSTON** (AP)—James Harden has been putting up MVP-caliber numbers all season for the Houston Rockets.

Given the chance to go head to head with one of his biggest competitors for the award, Harden and the Rockets came out on top.

Harden scored 33 points and Cleveland star LeBron James missed a pair of free throws with 4.2 seconds left in overtime, helping the Rockets hold on for a 105-103 win over the Cavaliers on Sunday.

Harden dismissed any talk that the performance was some sort of statement about the league's MVP award.

"Every game is a statement for me," said Harden, who leads the NBA in scoring. "I'm just out here trying to prove myself—trying to win games."

It's worked well so far. Harden has led the Rockets to five straight wins, a 41-18 record and the third seed in the Western Conference with fellow star Dwight Howard out with a knee problem.

James hit a 3-pointer with 43.5 seconds left to get Cleveland within one. Harden and James got tangled up on Houston's next possession, but no foul was called and the shot clock expired.

James drove into the lane and was fouled by Josh Smith, but he missed both free throws to finish 3 for 11 at the line.

"There is no excuse. I missed free throws," James said. "I missed the two biggest ones of the game to put us up with seconds on the clock and I didn't come through. I failed my teammates."

Harden, who had his 26th 30-point game this season, added a free throw and Cleveland missed a 3 at the buzzer.

James finished with 37 points after resting during Friday night's 93-86 loss at Indiana. He returned for a chippy contest that had multiple technicals and a flagrant foul by Harden on James.

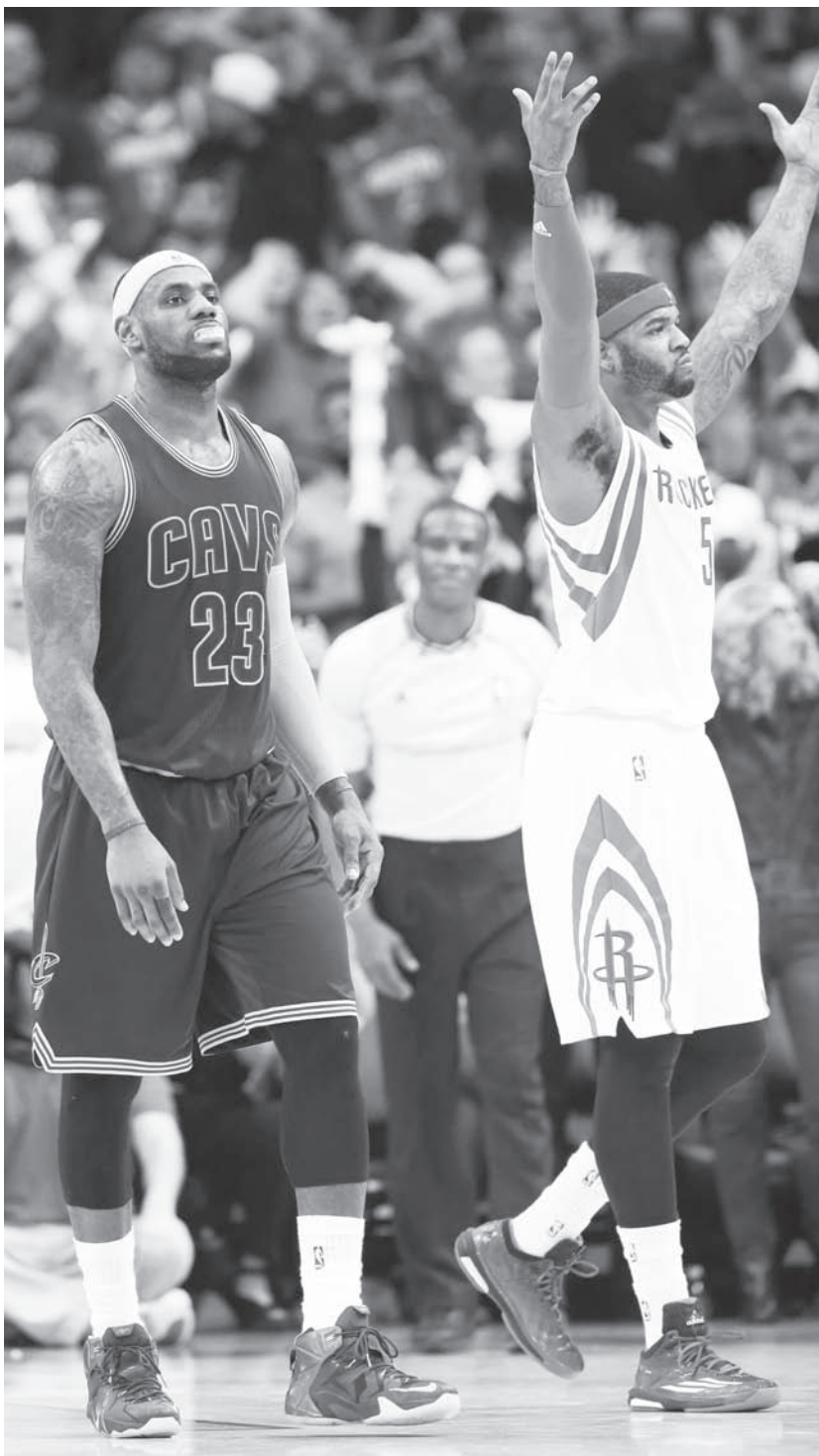
"It was old-school basketball," James said. "When you have two teams with the same aspirations and trying to get better every day, it can get like that."

A long jumper by J.R. Smith put Cleveland in front in overtime, but Houston scored the next five points. Patrick Beverley made a go-ahead 3 and Smith hit two foul shots to make it 104-100 with 2:21 remaining.

The Cavaliers had a chance for the win in regulation but James held the ball until right before the buzzer and his jump shot bounced off the rim.

Kevin Love had 21 points for the Cavaliers, who played their second game without point guard Kyrie Irving, who has a left shoulder strain.

The loss ended Cleveland's 10-game winning streak against the Western Conference and prevented the Cavs



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) heads for the bench after missing two free throws as Houston Rockets' Josh Smith (5) celebrates in the final seconds of overtime in an NBA basketball game Sunday, March 1, 2015, in Houston.

from moving into first in the Central Division. Cleveland has won 18 of 22 but has dropped two straight.

James and Beverley got into a brief skirmish in the second half after Beverley fouled James on a shot. With both players on the ground, James pushed Beverley down as he tried to get up and Beverley pushed him back. The players were separated and both were given technical fouls.

Harden got a flagrant foul when he kicked in the direction of James' crotch as he fell as James tried to grab the ball from him late in the third. James was pulled away from Harden as he

screamed at him, and Brewer and Cleveland's Tristan Thompson both received technical fouls from the ensuing argument.

"That's not a basketball play and the league will probably take a look at it," James said. "I have no idea why he would do that."

Harden said it was just a reaction.

## Warriors 106, Celtics 101

In Boston, Stephen Curry scored 37 points, making four straight free throws to clinch it in the final seconds as Golden State erased a 26-point deficit to beat Boston.

Golden State won for the seventh time in nine tries and snapped Boston's three-game winning streak. Klay Thompson scored 20 for the Warriors, Harrison Barnes had 17 and Draymond Green scored 11 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter.

Isaiah Thomas scored 20 points off the bench for Boston. Jae Crowder had a career-high 17 rebounds to go with his nine points, but his 3-pointer with a chance to give Boston the lead with under a minute left rolled around the rim and out.

## Clippers 96, Bulls 86

In Chicago, DeAndre Jordan had 26 rebounds and Chris Paul scored 28 points to lead Los Angeles past Chicago.

Los Angeles was behind 76-75 when Jamal Crawford made a 3-pointer with 8:02 left. The Clippers never trailed the rest of the way. After a scoreless first half, Crawford had 16 points in the final two quarters.

The Clippers extended their winning streak to five in a row in Chicago, the longest in franchise history. They haven't lost there since Dec. 17, 2008.

Bulls rookie reserve Nikola Mirotic scored a career-high 29 points. He accounted for all but one of his team's 17 points in the fourth quarter.

Chicago All-Star Jimmy Butler sprained his left elbow when he ran into Jordan's pick early in the third period and sat out the rest of the game.

## Thunder 108, Lakers 101

In Los Angeles, Serge Ibaka had 18 points and 14 rebounds, and D.J. Augustin added 18 points and nine rebounds as Oklahoma City beat the Lakers without Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook.

Enes Kanter had 16 points and 15 rebounds as the Thunder's supporting cast snapped a two-game skid with no help from its superstar duo. Durant is out with a foot injury, and Westbrook underwent surgery on his right cheek Saturday in his native Los Angeles.

Yet the Thunder's role players, backups and newcomers never trailed against the 14th-place Lakers, whose three-game winning streak ended meekly.

Jeremy Lin had 20 points, eight assists and six rebounds for Los Angeles, which got at least eight points from eight players, but couldn't win its season-high fourth straight.

## Trail Blazers 110, Kings 99

In Sacramento, California, Damian Lillard scored nine of his 31 points in the fourth quarter and LaMarcus Aldridge had 26 points and 15 rebounds as Portland beat Sacramento for its

third straight victory.

Wes Matthews scored 17 points and Robin Lopez had 15 points and eight rebounds for Portland, which is 14-13 on the road.

Rudy Gay scored 24 points and Derrick Williams had 13 of his 18 in the fourth quarter for the Kings. Andre Miller had 12 points and 10 assists.

## Hornets 98, Magic 83

In Orlando, Florida, Mo Williams had 23 points and 11 assists as Charlotte beat Orlando.

Cody Zeller, Al Jefferson and Gerald Henderson had 16 points apiece for the Hornets, who had dropped six of seven.

It was the fifth straight double-digit scoring game for Williams and his second time with double-digit assists since being dealt to Charlotte at the trade deadline.

Victor Oladipo led the Magic with 21 points. Orlando has lost three straight since a season-high, three-game win streak.

## Pacers 94, 76ers 74

In Indianapolis, Roy Hibbert had 14 points, 15 rebounds and five blocked shots to help Indiana move three percentage points ahead of Brooklyn and Charlotte in the crowded race for the final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Indiana has won eight of 10, while the 76ers have lost six of seven.

George Hill scored 17 points and Luis Scola added 15 off the bench for the Pacers. Hibbert had his 14th double-double of the season.

Robert Covington led the Sixers with 12 points despite leaving in the third quarter due to an injury. Ish Smith added 11 off the bench.

## Pelicans 99, Nuggets 92

In Denver, Tyreke Evans scored 22 points, Dante Cunningham drew a key charge late in the fourth quarter as New Orleans extended its winning streak to five games by holding off struggling Denver.

Eric Gordon added 18 points and Omer Asik grabbed 16 rebounds for the Pelicans, who were without All-Star forward Anthony Davis for a fourth straight game after he re-injured his right shoulder on Feb. 21. The Pelicans are 4-0 in Davis' absence to remain in the playoff conversation.

Denver dropped its 10th straight at the Pepsi Center, its longest home skid since losing 11 in a row during the 1997-98 season.

Danilo Gallinari had 21 points for Denver, including a half-court shot to end the third quarter that revved up the crowd. The Nuggets fell to 0-6 since the All-Star break.

# Nats' Scherzer simulates everything, including anthem



**VIERA, Fla.** (AP)—Max Scherzer was warming up in the bullpen, getting ready to head onto the field to throw his first batting practice session for the Washington Nationals.

But first, the national anthem.

"You've got to simulate it like it's a real game," Scherzer said Sunday. "It's always about the little things."

So before Scherzer could leave the bullpen, he turned to manager Matt Williams, who was standing near him.

Williams hummed "The Star-Spangled Banner" for him.

"It's Max's thing," Williams said. "He always takes that break for the national anthem when he prepares to go start a game. He wanted to take the break, so we hummed it for him and made him feel comfortable in that regard so he could go out and do his live BP."

After that, the Nationals' newcomer threw a few more warmup pitches, then took the spring training mound and used his full arsenal against bat-

ters who aren't likely to make the team's final roster—catchers Daniel Butler and Sandy Leon, infielders Emmanuel Burris and Kia Ka'aihue, and outfielder Matt Skole.

"It felt great," Scherzer said. "It's been a few months since I've been out there facing hitters. And to actually seem like I know what I was doing, it was a good feeling."

Scherzer's fastball and breaking balls seemed particularly sharp. Only Butler made any kind of real contact, hitting what would have

been a weak grounder to second. Other than that, the batters just let the pitches go by.

"They only swung three times, so I don't know if they had a problem or not," Scherzer said. "I was at least putting the fastball where I wanted to today, but at the end of the day, it's a live BP, so let's check what we're actually talking about."

Williams said he thought Scherzer threw the ball "extremely well."

The NL East champion Nationals boosted their already formidable rota-

tion in the offseason when they signed the former AL Cy Young Award with Detroit to a \$210 million, seven-year contract.

While Scherzer makes the adjustment to a new league, he's keeping his same routines. Such as humming the anthem, which he said happened all the time when he played for the Tigers.

Williams found out about the tradition Sunday morning. What does that tell the manager about his new star?

"I'm not sure what that tells me about him, other than that he pays attention to the national anthem, which is a good thing," Williams smiled.



# Fighting in eastern Ukraine displaces Donetsk's soccer team

**LVIV, Ukraine** (AP)—The sleek stadium, built six years ago and host to some of Europe's biggest soccer matches, is silent. It sits in the middle of the city of Donetsk, a war zone controlled by pro-Russian separatists battling Ukrainian troops.

The \$425 million Donbass Arena now serves as a depot and distribution point for supplies of humanitarian aid, stacked in corridors beneath its 52,000 orange-and-black seats.

It is the home of the talented soccer team known as Shakhtar Donetsk—but the squad hasn't played there since May 2. The fighting in eastern Ukraine has forced the team to temporarily relocate, playing its home games in the far western city of Lviv, near the border with Poland, more than 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) away.

Players like Ivan Ordets originally packed light for what they thought would be a short stay, living in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev and traveling by bus to the games in Lviv.

Nine months later, with the war dragging on through failed cease-fires and nearly 5,800 people killed, the players have rented apartments in Kiev and are starting to build new lives there, but their thoughts never stray far from the conflict.

"It's the first time in my life that I haven't been home for a long time," the 22-year-old Ordets told The Associated Press, tears welling in his eyes. Although his mother has moved with him to Kiev, other relatives remained behind.

"My uncle, my aunt, my dad—they've stayed in the east of Ukraine," he added. "In that way, it's hard and I'm worried for them."

Ordets, a defender, is one of the few Ukrainians on Shakhtar Donetsk, a team that includes 13 Brazilians, more than half its roster. He comes from Volnovakha, a small town near Donetsk, but on the Ukrainian government side of the lines.

Last month, a passenger bus in Volnovakha was hit by a shell, killing 13 people. The Ukrainian government accused the Russia-backed separatists, who denied responsibility.

"They're shooting and it's not a calm situation there in the town. There's a



In this Monday, June 6, 2011 file photo, a view of soccer stadium, Donbass Arena, in Donetsk, Ukraine. More than a year ago, Shakhtar Donetsk was poised to become one of European soccer's giants.

lot of troops in the town," Ordets said, speaking in a luxury hotel in Kiev that serves as the team's temporary base.

Some neighborhoods of Donetsk have been wrecked by indiscriminate shelling, and its airport—refurbished and modernized for the 2012 European soccer championships—is in ruins. The team's Donbass Arena has suffered some exterior damage from the fighting. Security-camera video from Oct. 20 showed a person was nearly hit by falling glass from the top of the stadium, and the club said it was caused by a shock wave from a nearby explosion, although it added that no one was hurt.

The team takes its name, "Shakhtar," from the coal miners who work in the industrialized region of the Donbass - or Donetsk Basin - of eastern Ukraine. Most of the residents in the east speak Russian and want closer ties to Moscow, regarding the government in Kiev with suspicion. By contrast, western Ukraine tilts more toward Europe, and the city of Lviv is a stronghold of Ukrainian nationalism.

Shakhtar Donetsk is owned by billionaire Rinat Akhmetov, an industrialist who is Ukraine's richest man. His companies employ thousands in the Donetsk area, he built Donbass Arena, and

he has publicly opposed the separatists.

Not surprisingly, Ordets said "all the team, all the guys are for a united Ukraine," and many of the club's fans also have been vocal opponents of the rebels. Online forums for Shakhtar supporters are filled with appeals to raise funds for Ukrainian troops trying to retake Donetsk. Some fans sell Shakhtar apparel—normally orange and black—with Ukraine's national colors of yellow and blue.

Under Akhmetov, the team imported the Brazilian stars en masse with a mission to win the Champions League, Europe's most prestigious competition. Last year, Shakhtar Donetsk finished atop the Ukrainian Premier League.

Five of the Brazilian players initially refused to return to the club last year for the new season because of the conflict, including stars Douglas Costa and Alex Teixeira, but all eventually returned.

Last week, Shakhtar held German champion Bayern Munich to a scoreless draw in Lviv, with the stadium decked out in a show of Ukrainian unity. Fans from eastern Ukraine traveled more than a day by bus to support their team, whose nickname is the "Pitmen"—after their coal-mining roots.

Shakhtar team captain Darijo Srna

said the bloodshed in the east both saddens and inspires the players.

"Inside of the heart, inside of the soul, we are feeling the problems and we are playing for our fans," Srna told the AP.

Although he is from Croatia, Srna has spent the last 12 years with Shakhtar and considers Donetsk to be his home. In November, he arranged for 20 tons of fruit to be delivered to children in Donetsk via the team owner's charitable foundation, as part of efforts to ease the humanitarian crisis brought on by the fighting.

"For me, the most important moment in the war is to help," he said.

Some Shakhtar Donetsk fans say Ukraine's deep political division has forced them to move west because they felt threatened by supporters of the pro-Moscow forces.

"They caused problems for a lot of us. It was becoming unsafe for me to stay," said a man who asked to be identified only as Kirill for fear of reprisal against his relatives still in rebel-held territory.

Not everyone has welcomed Shakhtar Donetsk to western Ukraine. The city is home to an underachieving club called Karpaty Lviv, and there have been some tensions between its fans and those of

the richer, more talented squad from the east that is temporarily using the stadium. At a Shakhtar Donetsk game in November, some fans unfurled a banner that said, "Get out of Lviv."

But there was no sign of ill will at the Bayern match, with many local fans wearing the Shakhtar colors.

"I've got nothing bad to say about it," said 69-year-old Yuri Kotov, who traveled to Lviv from the town of Severodonetsk in the partly rebel-held Luhansk region of eastern Ukraine. "It's a full stadium and they're welcoming us."

What the future holds for Shakhtar is as uncertain as the outcome of the conflict.

When the current players are sold or their contracts expire, the team might find it hard to attract high-quality replacements if it does not have a permanent home.

For now, the team and its fans are focused on letting the game give them some respite from the bloodshed.

"There's a war going on, but you have to give people just a little bit of joy with the games and with victories, so that they believe that everything will be fine," said Ordets, the Ukrainian player.

## Poulter, Casey share lead at rain-delayed Honda Classic



**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.**

(AP)—Jan Poulter didn't realize he had a three-shot lead in the Honda Classic, only that he was playing well enough to feel like he was in control of his game and the tournament.

One shank changed everything Sunday.

"That just came out of left field," Poulter said.

His next tee shot that splashed down in the water left of the fairway made it even worse.

"It was a bit of a body blow," he said.

What had been a marathon day at soggy PGA National suddenly turned into a sprint-to-the-finish on Monday morning when the final round was to resume. Poulter lost command of the Honda Classic, but he didn't lose his place atop the leaderboard.

He was at 7-under par through seven holes, tied with Paul Casey, who went out in 31 and was in the left rough on the 10th hole when the final round was halted at sunset.

Patrick Reed, in the final group with Poulter, was one shot behind.

Phil Mickelson was among four players who were three shots behind at 4-under par. That group included Daniel Berger, the PGA Tour rookie from West Palm Beach whose final shot Sunday was a 35-foot chip-in for birdie on the 11th hole.

"I'm pretty pleased with the golf I've played throughout the whole of today," Poulter said. "I haven't really made many mistakes at all. I've put it in position an awful lot, which is encouraging right now. And if I do that tomorrow, then I'm going to be in a good position."

His two mistakes were big ones.

Leading by three shots, he tried to take a little off an 8-iron on the par-3 fifth hole, where the green is guarded by water on the left. Poulter hit a shank that went so far to the right it bounced into water on the sixth hole. He made double bogey and lost the lead.

On his next tee shot, he pulled his drive into the water down the left side of the sixth fairway and had to two-putt from 65 feet to escape with bogey.

"You take your foot off the accelerator for one second, all of a sudden you find yourself completely out of position," Poulter said.

For a day of plodding across the rain-softened fairways, the Honda Classic suddenly was full of energy, not to mention possibilities. There was a three-shot swing at No. 5 when Reed holed a 35-foot birdie putt from a swale right of the fifth green and Poulter made his double bogey. Reed took the lead on No. 6 when Poulter made bogey.

And then Poulter was on the right end of a two-shot swing at their final hole of the long day, the par-3 seventh. His eyes a little wider, his blood boiling, Poulter drilled a 6-iron into 3 feet for birdie, while Reed missed the green to the left and failed to get up-and-down.

No longer forgotten was Casey, who made four birdies on the front nine, all from no more than 12 feet. His birdie on No. 9 moved him into a share of the lead.

The Monday finish was caused by nearly 5 inches of rain and 50 mph gusts that washed out the third round

on Saturday and took a 78-member grounds crew until 10 a.m. Sunday just to get the course ready. It had so much water that the crew had to chase off an alligator from the bunkers. Players finished the third round and went right back out to squeeze in as many holes as possible. The final round was to resume at 8 a.m.

"This sort of situation is going to be difficult for everybody, and it just breaks up momentum," said Casey, who had more than anyone. "Some guys will carry it through tomorrow. Others won't, and that's very difficult to predict. ... You just hope you wake up tomorrow and you feel like you've got the same kind of golf swing and putts are going in the hole. You just don't know. Hope the golfing gods are nice to us tomorrow."

That's what Mickelson was thinking.

He opened with two quick birdies and was getting closer to the lead until pushing a 4-foot par putt on the sixth hole. Mickelson had 10-foot par putt on the ninth hole when he returned Monday morning.

"I'm looking forward to just having a minute to regroup and take a look at what's going on," Mickelson said.

Jeff Overton, Brendan Steele and Russell Knox, who lost in a four-man playoff last year at PGA National, also were at 4 under.

Poulter was right about one thing. He did play some good golf, except for those two holes. He was bogey-free for a 66 in the third round, taking him from a two-shot deficit to a three-shot lead over Reed and Pádraig Harrington going into the final round. It was his first 54-hole lead on the PGA Tour.

Harrington twice missed short putts - making bogey on No. 4 and double bogey on No. 6—and was at 3 under.

Poulter at least was pleased with how he left the course with that 6-iron for birdie. He will try to end more than two years without a victory.

"Silly things happen," he said. "Tiring, and made a couple of really bad swings on 5 and 6. But that kind of angered me inside enough to spark a little bit of energy there to hit a good shot on 7."



# Fiesta, Mobil rout business caging foes

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Title contenders Fiesta Resort and Spa and Mobil/JP World completed lopsided wins over separate opponents in the Inter-Commercial Business Basketball League 2015 last Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Fiesta banked on the consistent scoring of its Big 3—Matt Duenas, Lerio Pagarao, and Elmer Esdreton—in cruising to an 89-72 win over the Public School System, while Mobil used a

balanced scoring in posting an easy 99-49 decision against IT&E.

Duenas and Esdreton combined for 11 of Fiesta's 21 points in the final period as they finally pull away from a close contest.

Duenas finished with game highs of 31 points and 14 rebounds, while Esdreton added 17 markers, 8 rebounds, 6 assists, and 6 steals. Lerio Pagarao also chipped in big numbers with 23 points, 7 rebounds, and 5 steals.

Preston Basa led PSS with 23 points, Maverick Itibus had 15, while Melvin Manibusan tallied 12 markers and 8 rebounds.

In the second game, Mike Arciaga scattered 16 points to lead six other

players that turned in 8 points or more.

Wenz Espinosa and Ignacio Borja scored 12 and 10 points each, while Mike Espinosa and Prince Factor combined for 18 markers to back up Arciaga. J.P. Jose and Manolo Manalo contributed 8 points apiece.

Mobil led from all departments: 58-24 in rebounds, 17-3 in assists, 15-12 in steals, and 4-1 in blocks.

Jason Palacios was the lone IT&E player to finish in double figures with 22 points.

On Feb. 24, Tuesday, Joeten defeated Saipan Ice, 82-59.

**First Game**  
**Fiesta Resort 89** – Duenas 31, Pag-

arao 23, Esdreton 17, De Dios 9, Nonato 4, Maratita 3, Morales 2.

**PSS 72** – Basa 23, Itibus 15, Manibusan 12, Caro 8, Diaz 7, Cabrera 3, Tenorio 2, Villacrusis 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 27-22, 46-42, 65-61, 89-72.

**Second Game**  
**Mobil 99** – Arciaga 16, W. Espinosa 12, Borja 10, M. Espinosa 9, Factor 9, Jose 8, Manalo 8, Dikito 6, Rivera 6, Sacramento 6, Estolas 5, Pantaleon 2.

**IT&E 49** – Palacios 22, Santos 9, Benavente 7, Sangalang 7, Aglipay 2, Granada 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 20-10, 46-23, 67-32, 32-17.

## UFO league meeting today



Officials of the 2015 United Filipino Organization Basketball League will hold a technical meeting today at 6pm at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

Representatives of participating

teams in four divisions are requested to attend the meeting as details of the opening ceremony set for March 15 will also be discussed tonight.

This year's UFO league has lured 20 teams with seven of them playing in the Masters, six in the Open division, and four and three in the U15

and U20 age groups, respectively. Organizers will only accept a maximum of eight squads per division.

Each team is also required to submit only a 12-player roster, while registration fees are as follows: \$350 in U15, \$400 in U20, \$600 in Open, and \$550 in the Masters.

Teams participating in the U15 division will play first in the opener, while games in the Masters, U21,

and Open will also take place in the kick-off date. Teams seeing action in the opener will be determined via raffle drawing.

For more information, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525, Pepe Crisostomo at 483-1997, Edward Manalili at 483-4337, Marlon Regaton at 989-9836, or Pete Reyes at 9897-317 or send email to ufo.saipan@gmail.com. **(UFO)**

## SHIRLEY'S

From Page 28

hat-trick as she notched her third goal in the 48th minute.

Five other players contributed in the rout against the hapless MP United crew.

Negahr Rastguiry lit up the board anew for Shirley's just five minutes after Vergara recorded the game's first goal, while the squad's next two came in a span of only one minute with Kiana Atalig hitting her target in the ninth and Jeraldine Castillo duplicating the feat in the 20th.

Castillo got her second goal in the final half, converting an attempt in the 72nd minute, while Diana Maniacop

completed Shirley's domination with her goal in the 78th.

With another shutout win, Shirley's has yet to allow a single goal in three games, while collecting 16. MP United has earned eight goals so far and gave up 14.

**Tan Holdings FC 5, Independents FC 0**

The second game of the night also ended in a rout with Tan Holdings FC blanking Independents FC

Chloe Salvosa towed Tan Holdings to the easy win with her pair of goals, which came in back-to-back fashion early in the second half. Jennifer Perena, Mary Kay Alferos, and Renita Fleming were the other scorers for Tan Holdings.

Perena opened up Tan Holdings' offense with her goal in the fifth minute, while Alferos made it a 2-0 lead with her shot in the 22nd. Fleming drilled her lone goal in the second half after Salvosa got a break.

Tan Holdings improved its record to 2-2-0 for solo second place in the team standings and has earned 14 goals so far, while allowing only five. Independents FC dropped to a 1-0-3 card to remain at the bottom half of the team standings.

**Kanoa FC 4, Matansa FC 1**

In the last game for Week 4 of the women's league, Kanoa topped Matansa.

Kanoa bagged its first win after getting a draw in its first game and losing its second, while Matansa

absorbed its second loss after three matches.

Lalaine Pagarao led Kanoa's first victory of the season, as she scored twin goals against Matansa. She posted her first goal in the 37th minute to hand Kanoa a 2-0 advantage. Jenny Lee recorded Kanoa's first goal five minutes earlier before Pagarao made it to the board.

Matansa brought the deficit down to one and then stayed in contention after Bernadette Horey scored one minute before the first half wrapped up. However, that was the only time Matansa connected on its several attempts, while Pagarao gained her second goal in the 68th and Maribell Aldan closed out for Kanoa in the remaining minute of the match.

## AGUON

From Page 28

Roke Tenorio led the Red Sox's hit parade going 3-for-4 with a double, two runs scored, and two RBIs—both RBI singles in the second and fifth innings while Jobe Reyes went 2-for-2 with a two-RBI single in a seven-run second inning.

Aguon, Richard Atalig, and Nate Camacho all had 2-for-4 plate appearances with the former having a pair of singles and one run. Atalig scored twice and had an RBI, while Camacho had three runs with a double, triple, and an RBI.

**Enforcers 5, Comets 3**

Ethan Babauta and Henry Lizama starred for the Enforcers against the

Comets in another game in the Senior division.

Babauta pitched a complete game and was tagged with two earned runs on six hits with six strikeouts and one walk.

Lizama, who struck out in his first plate appearance, finished 2-for-4 with a double and two runs scored.

**JUNIORS DIVISION**  
**Fielders 18, Red Sox 6**

Sho Taguchi tossed 3 1/2 one-hit innings and the Fielders used a nine-run first inning to silence the Red Sox.

He only gave up one earned run, fanned two, and walked two where he forced the Red Sox batters to grounders that kept the defense busy.

Kimo Aingalen blasted an inside-the-park homerun—a two-run shot in the fifth—in a 3-for-4 performance at

the plate with three runs and a triple. Napu Pua went 2-for-4 with two runs and an RBI.

**MAJORS DIVISION**  
**Braves 4, Comets 0**

Vicente Camacho and Anthony Dizon pitched and batted the Braves to victory over the Comets.

Camacho went 3-for-3 with one run and two RBIs, and pitched one inning in relief to complete the shutout win.

He quickly retired Reid Teregeyo and Kobe Deleon Guerrero, and walked Zeph Limes before forcing Ethan Somol to ground out on a 4-3 putout play to end the game in the top of the sixth.

Dizon also did his share on the mound and at the plate. He tossed five shutout innings with no hits, fanning nine and walking three more batters, and went 2-for-3 with one run and a triple.

**Padres 26, Twins 5**

Tarrance Babauta belted three homeruns in leading the Padres to the easy win against the As Matuis Twins. He had a two-run shot in the first and made two inside-the-park round-trippers after that.

Babauta, who singled in the fourth where he scored on a passed ball, finished 4-for-4 with four RBIs while Maximus Gabionza went 3-for-5 with a triple, three runs, and an RBI.

Babauta also pitched two shutout innings in relief with six strikeouts and one walk. Tylon Sablan started for two innings giving up two earned runs on four hits while fanning three and walking two.

**Little Legales 15, Jets 2**

In the final match, the Little Legals used an eight-run third inning to breeze past the still winless Jets.

## SSFM/NEW

From Page 28

never looked back from thereon, as its young crew kept spreading the wealth.

In the second game, Island Manpower also got off to a good start en route to the easy win.

Island Manpower led Team Familia by 16 after the first 10 minutes of play, 22-6, thanks to Derek Rangamar's 7

points, 5 straight of them came late in the opening period.

Team Familia picked up its scoring in the second quarter, but Island Manpower still outgunned the former, 20-16, to stretch the lead to 20 at the break, 42-22.

Island Manpower protected the double-digit lead in the second half, as Team Familia never made headway with only Randy Pelisamen and Ervin Kapileo consistently hitting their shots.

Jerome Norita top-scored for Island Manpower with his 17 points, while Angel Palacios chipped in 12.

**First Game**  
**SSFM/New Garapan 74** – Ong 18, J. Espinosa 15, M. Espinosa 10, Bisana 10, Velasco 6, Echavez 2, Rabasto 2.

**Maplas 62** – Mendoza 12, Achas 11, R. Usi 9, Yalung 7, Odicta 6, San Nicolas 3, Rivera 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 22-11, 37-

21, 51-36, 74-62.

**Second Game**  
**Island Manpower 73** – Norita 17, Palacios 12, Rangamar 9, Teregeyo 9, Olopai 8, Lizama 4, Saplan 2, Barrozo 2.

**Team Familia 54** – R. Pelisamen 16, Kapileo 14, Macaranas 8, E. Pelisamen 8, Ja. Pelisamen 2, JR Pelisamen 2, Jo. Pelisamen 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 22-6, 42-22, 62-36, 73-54.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	37	22	.627	—
Brooklyn	24	33	.421	12
Boston	23	34	.404	13
Philadelphia	13	46	.220	24
New York	12	46	.207	24½
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	47	12	.797	—
Washington	34	26	.567	13½
Miami	25	33	.431	21½
Charlotte	24	33	.421	22
Orlando	19	42	.311	29
Central Division				
Chicago	37	23	.617	—
Cleveland	37	24	.607	½
Milwaukee	32	27	.542	4½
Indiana	25	34	.424	11½
Detroit	23	36	.390	13½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Memphis	42	16	.724	—
Houston	41	18	.695	1½
Dallas	39	22	.639	4½
San Antonio	36	23	.610	6½
New Orleans	32	27	.542	10½
Northwest Division				
Portland	39	19	.672	—
Oklahoma City	33	27	.550	7
Utah	23	35	.397	16
Denver	20	39	.339	19½
Minnesota	13	45	.224	26
Pacific Division				
Golden State	46	11	.807	—
L.A. Clippers	39	21	.650	8½
Phoenix	31	29	.517	16½
Sacramento	20	37	.351	26
L.A. Lakers	16	42	.276	30½
HONDA CLASSIC SCORES				
PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (AP) — Scores Sunday at the Honda Classic, a US PGA Tour event at par-70, 7,140-yard PGA National Resort and Spa (Champions Course):				
THIRD ROUND				
Ian Poulter	71-64-66	—	201	
Padraig Harrington	67-66-71	—	204	
Patrick Reed	67-67-70	—	204	
Paul Casey	69-70-68	—	207	
Brendan Steele	66-69-71	—	206	
Phil Mickelson	71-67-69	—	207	
Russell Knox	69-68-70	—	207	
Jeff Overton	71-68-69	—	208	
Jim Herman	65-72-71	—	208	
George McNeill	72-70-68	—	210	
Scott Piercy	68-73-69	—	210	
Daniel Berger	68-71-71	—	210	
Daniel Summerhays	71-68-70	—	209	
Jamie Lovemark	72-70-69	—	211	
Jason Dufner	71-69-70	—	210	
John Huh	70-73-68	—	211	
Jamie Donaldson	68-71-71	—	210	
Luke Donald	69-67-74	—	210	
Zac Blair	71-71-69	—	211	
William McGirt	71-71-69	—	211	
Joost Luiten	71-71-67	—	209	
Sean O'Hair	70-71-71	—	212	
S.J. Park	68-71-72	—	211	
Camilo Villegas	73-71-67	—	211	
Cameron Tringale	71-70-72	—	213	
Rory Sabbatini	68-75-69	—	212	
Brendon de Jonge	69-71-71	—	211	
Ryo Ishikawa	74-65-72	—	211	
Tim Wilkinson	73-71-68	—	212	
Stephen Gallacher	73-71-68	—	212	
Martin Flores	67-71-74	—	212	
Michael Thompson	69-73-69	—	211	
Sergio Garcia	72-70-70	—	212	
Brian Davis	71-71-71	—	213	
Brooks Koepka	78-64-70	—	212	
Jonas Blixt	71-71-70	—	212	
Charles Howell III	70-71-72	—	213	
Ryan Palmer	71-72-71	—	214	
Robert Garrigus	70-69-74	—	213	
Stewart Cink	73-71-69	—	213	
Steve Wheatcroft	74-70-69	—	213	
John Peterson	74-68-71	—	213	
Ricky Barnes	74-69-70	—	213	
Carl Pettersson	72-69-71	—	212	
Chad Campbell	71-72-71	—	214	
Adam Hadwin	72-71-68	—	211	
Rickie Fowler	70-73-70	—	213	
David Lingmerth	68-75-70	—	213	
Brian Harman	70-74-70	—	214	
Derek Fathauer	74-69-71	—	214	
Y.E. Yang	71-72-72	—	215	
Scott Langley	72-71-72	—	215	
Nick Watney	73-71-71	—	215	
Kevin Kisner	74-68-74	—	216	
Ben Crane	69-74-73	—	216	
Russell Henley	73-70-72	—	215	
Martin Kaymer	68-75-72	—	215	
Blayne Barber	75-69-72	—	216	
Lee Westwood	71-73-72	—	216	
Ben Martin	70-72-76	—	218	
Andres Gonzales	73-70-74	—	217	
Jon Curran	71-72-74	—	217	
Scott Pinckney	73-71-73	—	217	
Fabian Gomez	73-69-75	—	217	
Scott Stallings	71-70-78	—	219	
Robert Allenby	72-69-76	—	217	
Patrick Rodgers	75-69-74	—	218	
Marc Leishman	73-69-75	—	217	
Matt Every	70-73-76	—	219	
Robert Streb	73-71-74	—	218	
Derek Ernst	74-70-75	—	219	
LEADERBOARD SCORE THRU				
1. Paul Casey	-7	9		
1. Ian Poulter	-7	7		
3. Patrick Reed	-6	7		
4. Daniel Berger	-4	11		
4. Jeff Overton	-4	10		
4. Phil Mickelson	-4	8		
4. Brendan Steele	-4	8		
4. Russell Knox	-4	8		
9. Padraig Harrington	-3	7		
10. Joost Luiten	-2	14		
10. Jamie Donaldson	-2	9		
10. Jim Herman	-2	8		
13. William McGirt	-1	15		
13. Daniel Summerhays	-1	9		
13. Camilo Villegas	-1	9		
13. Luke Donald	-1	8		
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				



# Daniel gets early Genesis Cup lead



League game officials, volunteers, and sports coordinators of participating teams pose for a group photo after the opening ceremony of the 4th Genesis Cup late last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Defending champion Daniel took the early lead in the 4th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League following a 73-67 win over Jeremiah last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Daniel notched its second victory in as many games to pace Isaiah (1-0), Joshua (1-0), Gideon (1-1), Caleb (1-1), Samuel (0-1), Ezekiel (0-1), and Jeremiah (0-2) in the

team standings.

Daniel dictated the tempo of second game of the night right at the get-go and though Jeremiah hung around throughout the match, the former withstood the latter's repeated comeback bids for the 6-point winning margin.

Angelo Hernaez top-scored for Daniel with his 26 points, while Alain Nunez was the other double figure scorer for the team with 11. Three other Daniel players combined for 24 with Reli Del Rio, Mark Del Carmen, and Dindo Pablo regis-

tering 8 markers apiece.

Hernaez dropped 16 of his total output in the first half to lift Daniel to a 43-32 lead. Del Carmen added 8, while four more Daniel players converted at least two field goals each in the team's balance scoring.

No Jeremiah player broke into twin digits in the first half, but with Mark Rabago and Edgar Deang canning a couple of triples and Tenepere drilling four field goals, they kept Daniel within striking distance. Rabago and Deang nailed two

triples each.

Jeremiah made only one triple in the second half off Rabago's rainbow connection, but only him, Tenepere, and Nunag canned more than one field goal in the final frame as they failed to overhaul the deficit.

Hernaez added 10 more in the second half and drew a lot of support from his teammates to keep the lead and secure the win.

In the first game, Nathan Borromeo and Michael Cabanas combined for more than half of

Caleb's total production to power their team to the 18-point win.

The victory allowed Caleb to bounce back from its debut loss to Daniel, 52-65, last Feb. 23.

Borromeo and Cabanas joined forces early, scor-

ing 10 and 9 points in the first half, which ended with Caleb enjoying a double-digit lead, 33-23.

Gideon failed to contain Caleb's 1-2 punch in the second half and on the offensive end the former also could not get basket in streaks to drop to a 1-1 record. Gideon won its first match in the season, downing Samuel during the league opener, 63-60.

Lawrence Borja led Gideon's losing cause with his 16 points, while Allan David and Joel Buniag contributed 14 and 11, respectively. Gideon missed the services of Bradley Demapan, who scored 17 in their 3-point victory over Samuel.

Meanwhile, action in the

eight-team league resumed last night with Caleb going for win No. 2 against Ezekiel in the curtain-raiser. In the second game, Isaiah collided with Joshua. Results of neither match were unavailable at press time.



## First Game

**Caleb 68** – Borromeo 22, Cabanas 21, Bacani 10, Gatdula 8, Malaque 3, Castro 2, Sacdalan 2.

**Gideon 50** – Borja 16, David 14, Buniag 11, Salblan 3, Batallones 2, Santos 2, Palma 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 33-23, 68-50.

## Second Game

**Daniel 73** – Hernaez 26, Nunez 11, Del Carmen 8, Pablo 8, Del Rio 8, Borromeo 4, Paulino 4, Valderama 2, Puno 2.

**Jeremiah 67** – Nunag 20, Tenepere 18, Rabago 12, Deang 9, Lansangan 5, Castro 3.

**Scoring by halves:** 43-32, 73-67.

# Hardwicke leads 1st day of selection round

By **JON PEREZ**  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Veteran golfer Adam Hardwicke leads the first of another set of five Saturday selection rounds for the Pacific Games-bound CNMI Men's National Golf Team held last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

All 12 golfers who participated in the first five rounds moved on to the next round. Scores made in the five games played in the first round where not carried over and each tryout

day plays 18 holes.

Final scores of last Saturday's 18-hole event were not available at press time, but Hardwicke shot the lowest score followed by Eddie Peter, Harry Nakamura, and Franco Santos.

J.J. Atalig, the leader in the first set of five rounds, and Xerxes Camacho need to play make-up rounds in order to catch up with the frontrunners for them to keep their hopes of

clinching one of the four spots on the CNMI men's team.

Organizers of the golf tryouts would like to thank Jeff Taylor, Richard Pierce, Atty. Steve Nutting, and Mark Blackburn for coming out to play and show their support to the team that's being formed for this year's Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea.

The CNMI Junior Golf Association, through its president Attorney General Edward Manibusan,



**JON PEREZ**  
CNMI Junior Golf Association president and Attorney General Ed Manibusan, right, presents a \$1,000 check to Eddie Peter as a donation to the CNMI Men's National Golf Team's fund for the Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea this year.

# Miyazuka tops Tinian Turquoise Blue, again

For the second consecutive year, Hideya Miyazuka bested all other competitors from Japan and the Northern Mariana Islands to top the annual Tinian Turquoise Blue held last Feb. 14.

The 50-year-old Japanese competitor, a multiple champion in the triathlon and a familiar face on the race circuit in the Northern Marianas, finished the course in 2:41:07, beating his 2014 time of 2:42:13. He was followed by Peter Prestley of Saipan (2:48:19) and Yasunori Sugimura of Japan (2:48:51). The top female finishers were Kimiko McKagan (3:13:12), Kaitlin Mattos (3:20:30), and Lorie Hutchinson (3:29:34), all of Saipan.

"True to its name, this year's 15th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue was held under clear blue skies," said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "After a

tough race, many of the participants were happy to relax at the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival at Taga Beach."

The Reef Swim portion of the event attracted six competitors. Syoji Yamashita of Japan was the lone competitor in the 1.5K swim, finishing in 1:03:49. Akie Matoba of Japan took top honors in the 3K course with a time of 1:01:15, while the event's oldest competitor, 71-year-old Kazumi Mineo of Japan placed 2nd in the 3K swim (1:06:12).

The Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim are part of a series of sports-oriented signature events staged each year by the MVA. The next events will be the 26th Annual Tagaman Triathlon on March 22, XTERRA Saipan Championship on March 28, and Saipan Marathon on April 25, 2015. For more information, visit the MVA Events Calendar at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com). (MVA)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon was held on Feb. 14, 2015, in the Northern Mariana Islands.





**Harden's 33 points  
leads Rockets over  
Cavs 105-103 in OT**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports



**Daniel gets early Genesis  
Cup lead**

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28 TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



MP United Football Club's Kye Tamm, center, brings the ball out of the penalty share, as goalie Rachel Masga calls on for help defense and Shirley's FC's Angelica Carreon stays in the play during the second half of their game in the women's division of the M-League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Shirley's grabs lead from MPU

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**S**hirley's Football Club seized the lead in the women's division of M-League after demolishing MP United 8-0, last Saturday the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Shirley's kept its perfect record in three games to take the top spot in seven-team league from MP United, which fell to a

2-1-1 win-draw-loss record.

The new division leader leaned on its strong start to put the game away right after the



first 40 minutes of play. Shirley's scored five goals in the first half with two of them coming from Alexa Vergara. She drew first blood, scoring in the first minute and also hit Shirley's last goal in the second half with her shot in the 25th. Vergara went on to earn a

**See SHIRLEY'S  
on Page 26**

## Aguon tosses 3 shutout innings in Red Sox win

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Craig Aguon tossed three shutout innings in relief and the Red Sox had 14 hits in their 15-1 demolition of the Braves in the Senior division of the Saipan Little League on Sunday at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Aguon held the Braves to two hits, both singles to Logan Martin and Kekuni Kaainoa, with three strikeouts and one walk.

Vince Leon Guerrero pitched the first two innings surrendering three hits—a single to Donnie Fejeran, and doubles to Ernie Dela Cruz and J.J. Fejeran—while fanning two and walking two more batters.

Dela Cruz scored the Braves' lone run in the second inning.

**See AGUON on Page 26**

Ernie Dela Cruz of the Braves crosses home plate in their game in the Senior division against the Red Sox in the Saipan Little League last Sunday at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

JON PEREZ



## SSFM/New Garapan, Island Manpower ease foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**DLX** Island Manpower and SSFM/New Garapan Market waltzed past separate foes in the 2015 DLX Invitational Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Island Manpower was paired against Team Familia and cruised to a 73-54 victory, the former's first after dropping its opener against SSFM/New Garapan Market, 66-85. SSFM/New Garapan Market bagged its second win following a 74-62 triumph against Maplas in the nightcap last weekend.

Four players scored in twin digits for SSFM/New Garapan Market with young gun Djay Ong leading the team with his 18 points. J.P. Espinosa added 15, while Mike Espinosa and Cecilio Bisana chipped in 10 apiece.

Ong and Mike Espinosa logged 8 markers apiece in the first quarter to help SSFM/New Garapan Market build an early double-digit spread, 22-11. SSFM/New Garapan Market **See SSFM/NEW on Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

SSFM/New Garapan Market's Sean Rabasto goes up for a lay-up against Maplas' Edmark Mendoza during the third quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.